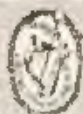


An Phoblacht REPUBLICAN NEWS



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DAY 57

With H-Block hunger strikers Raymond McCann and Patsy O'Hara on Sunday's 57th day on their fast, in the dawn it is necessary to ensure that just demands at republican political prisoners in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh. For portraits of Raymond and Patsy are published in page 24 to 25 inclusive. Raymond McCann is a quiet, gentle-spirited and devoted republican. Patsy O'Hara is a determined and courageous fighter. See also, page 6 'Two amazing stories' with Hughes shot.

32 Pages

25 Pence

The price of this week's special thirty-two page issue of 'An Phoblacht' is 25p.

LAI D TO REST



Hughes, IRA Volunteer, H-Block hunger-striker and fearless soldier

THE FUNERAL OF FRANCIS HUGHES



• The hearse containing the remains of IRA Volunteer Francis Hughes was flanked, on Friday, by an IRA guard of honour, and followed by thousands through the lanes of South Derry, led by the family



A fitting response



● RUC sectarian thugs stopping Belfast parade

THE IRA's RPG-7 rocket attack which ripped open an RUC jeep in Belfast, on Thursday night, took some of the cockiness out of the sectarian thugs who have been plaguing and shooting the nationalist youth of the city with a particular ferocity since the deaths of hunger-strikers Bobby Sands and Francis Hughes.

It was a fitting response but one which does not measure up to half the persecution inflicted upon the oppressed nationalist people by the uniformed loyalist thugs and their colleagues in khaki.

This last week of death and tragedy, grief and bereavement, sorrow and anger, spilling over into street resistance and a mounting series of IRA attacks on the Brits and the RUC, is the direct responsibility of the British government.

Following the deaths of first Bobby Sands and now Francis Hughes, people are outraged at the callousness symbolised by the cold-hearted Thatcher, who has rejected, not republican calls for a compromise, but even the appeals of Cardinal Tomás Ó Fiaich, Senator Edward Kennedy and the private pleadings of the weak-kneed Charles Haughey — a so-called 'sovereign' head of state who is being scrapped daily of his political machismo in the eyes of his own supporters.

COMMANDING

Only those with their life on the line, or their

finger on the republican trigger, and their mass of supporters, have been proving something.

Irish republicans, whether on hunger-strike, on active service, or out there with petrol bombs or placards, have been upholding the principle of Irish independence, paid for in blood (and mostly their own), and have been commanding the attention of the peoples of the world.

The hunger strike has turned thousands of nationalists into republicans overnight, has turned law youth into disciplined men and women preparing for the ranks of the IRA, and has, as predicted if one hunger striker died, created the fuel, and regenerated the support, for the next twelve years if that is how it must be.

CRACKED

When they took out the body of Bobby Sands past Francis Hughes' H-Block cell, Thatcher believed she would have cracked the prisoners and cracked the morale of the IRA.

But Francis Hughes was unbowed, as were Patsy O'Hare and Raymond McCreesh when his body went past their cells. Now two more names, two more photographs, two more fighters, Joe McDonnell and Brendan McLaughlin, have stepped forward into the public arena to be counted, realising that death is the price of their republicanism.

The stream of coffins from the H-Blocks will be paid for. Anyone from Elizabeth, Queen of England, down to Johnny Brit (and the RUC and UDR are inclusive), and the indifferent taxpayers who pay for the blood and who had better fork out more tax, will pay dearly for dragging tortured Ireland through more war, through more death and suffering.

Two becoming critical with Hughes dead

ON Tuesday evening Francis Hughes became the second political prisoner, in just over a week, to die on hunger-strike in the H-Blocks.

He had survived fifty-nine days without food, and despite his intense suffering he remained as determined as ever right up to the end.

As Francis Hughes' life ended on Tuesday, Patsy O'Hara and Raymond McCreeh, who are now becoming critical, were in their fifty-second day without food. Joe McDonnell was still suffering the initial hunger pangs as he moved into his fourth day on hunger-strike, and Brendan McLaughlin was preparing to replace his comrade, beginning his hunger-strike on Thursday.

Last Sunday, Francis was a-coveted, and by Monday his condition was so serious that his family were called to the prison.

They found Francis in an in-temperate coma and completely blind. He could barely speak or hear during his periods of consciousness. He was unable to move, being physically exhausted.

However, he made it absolutely clear that the hunger-strike could only end when the British conceded the five just demands.

Like on Monday, Francis layed out a full course, but, despite the seriousness of his death, the prison regime continued to harass the

family. Only four members of the family were allowed at the bedside at any given time with the result that Francis' letter could not be sent unless his own died. This was a further unnecessary additional distress to the family.

On Tuesday, at 5.42 p.m., IRA Volunteer Francis Hughes died still fighting as an unborn political prisoner.

VOMITS

Raymond McCreeh, who the Sunday is on his fifty-seventh day on hunger-strike, is having serious difficulties keeping down the necessary amount of water. With he drinks the water he vomits and he is also experiencing constant sickness.

Raymond has now lost over 34 lbs. in weight during the course of his hunger-strike.

By Friday he was in an extremely weakened condition. His eyesight was gone, his hearing was low, he found it difficult to speak, and he appeared, to his family visitor that day, to be on the point of slipping into semi-consciousness.

SUFFER

Judging by the previous rate of



● RAYMOND MCCREEH

deterioration of first Bobby Sands and then Francis Hughes, both Raymond and his comrade Patsy O'Hara will move into a critical stage within days.

Patsy O'Hara, who is also on his fifty-seventh day of hunger-strike



● PATSY O'HARA

this Sunday, is similarly experiencing the same symptoms of a prolonged fast. He has lost 45 lbs. in weight, is having trouble with his eyesight and his hearing, and is suffering very bad stomach pains and intense headaches.

As Raymond and Patsy suffer

the symptoms of the last stages of fasting to death, Joe McDonnell from Belfast completes his fast week and Brendan McLaughlin from North Derry takes the place of his comrade Francis Hughes in the continuing hunger-strike in the H-Blocks.

Hunger-striker No.5

JOE McDONNELL

THE REPLACEMENT for the late Bobby Sands on the four-strong H-Block hunger-strike is another Belfast republican, who was captured simultaneously with Bobby in October 1970.

Thirty-year-old blanket man Joe McDonnell, imprisoned in H5-Block, joined the hunger-strike last Saturday, May 8th.

Born on September 14th 1940, Joe McDonnell is one of a family of nine children. He is married with two children, Bernadette, aged 10, and Joseph, aged 8. His wife's name is Cora.

Joe McDonnell joined the Republican Movement shortly after the introduction of internment in August 1971. He had been living with his wife and children in Horn Drive in the Linsodan area of west Belfast but was turned out by the loyalist UDA.

In 1972 he was interned for a few months, first on the prison ship Maltese and then in Long Kesh. In 1973 he was again arrested and interned in Long Kesh until 1974.

In October 1976 he was arrested after the IRA commercial bombing attack on the Bakermat Furnishing Company in Upper Dumfries Lane on the outskirts of Belfast when Bobby Sands was also arrested.

There was a gun battle between the IRA and the RUC, when the latter arrived on the scene, and two of the Volunteers, Seamus Martin and Garret Corbett, were wounded. Joe McDonnell was arrested with three others, Bobby Sands, Sean Leary and Seamus Finucane, in a car in which



one gun was recovered. They were brought to Castlereagh and were interrogated for six days during which time they were roughly treated.

They were all charged with possessing the one firearm and after eleven months on remand, Joe and his five comrades, who all refused to recognise the court, were sentenced in September 1977 to fourteen years' imprisonment.

Joe went on the blanket in the H-Blocks and forfeited his monthly visits rather than wear the prison uniform. His wife, Cora, and their two children, have not seen him since September 1977.

Joe's brother, Frankie, is also on the blanket, is serving five years' imprisonment for IRA membership, and is due for release later this year.

Joe has now been on hunger-strike for political status, to the death if necessary, for one week.

Hunger-striker No.6

BRENDAN McLAUGHLIN

THE REPLACEMENT for the late Francis Hughes on the four-strong H-Block hunger-strike is another County Derry republican, who was captured simultaneously with former H-Block hunger-striker Tom McFeely in May 1970.

Twenty-nine-year-old blanket man Brendan McLaughlin, imprisoned in H5-Block, joined the hunger-strike last Thursday, May 13th.

Brendan McLaughlin is a single man from Greysteel, near Eglinton, in North Derry. He was reared on a small farm. His father died when he was twelve years of age.

After leaving school at fifteen he worked in a patrol station for two years and then on building sites. In 1973, at the age of eighteen, he joined in the civil rights struggle, and after the introduction of internment in August 1971 he joined the Republican Movement.

In September 1972 he was forced to go 'on the run' and went to live in the Free State. His mother died on Christmas Eve 1973.

In May 1974, he was arrested out of the house he was living in, was charged with withholding information, and was sentenced to four months in Portlaoine jail. In late 1974 he returned to Derry.

In May 1970, after a three-hour struggle at



his house in North Derry, he, his thirty-one-year-old brother Michael and former hunger-striker thirty-two-year-old Tom McFeely, were arrested.

When Brendan was being interrogated in Limavady RUC barracks he refused to eat or drink or co-operate in any way and was badly beaten.

In February 1977 Brendan was sentenced to 'twelve years' imprisonment. He immediately went on the blanket and forfeited his brief monthly visits rather than wear the prison uniform.

Brendan has now been on hunger-strike for political status, to the death if necessary, for several days.

Strasbourg diversion raised again

EVEN after the deaths of hunger-strikers Bobby Sands and Francis Hughes, the proposal and prospects of an intervention from the European Commission on Human Rights appeared to be Free State premier Charles Haughey's main crutch from falling completely under the growing clamour for the dismissal of the British ambassador and an end to the Dublin/London summit collaborationist talks.

BY PETER ARNOLD & KEVIN BURKE

Shortly after Bobby Sands was buried on Thursday 26th May, Paddy Lator, leader of Fionn Fáil Euro-NP, called upon the British Conservatives Euro-MPs in the friendliest possible spirit, and on Sir James Scott Hopping, their leader (who, with particularly explicit English chauvinistic venom, had earlier called the hunger-striker 'murdering bastards'), to show understanding and co-operation.

He was invited by them, and received little solidarity from Seán Éireann Ónnor, leader of the largest political group in the European Parliament, the 'socialists', who refused to lay the blame for the present situation at the door of the British government.

The political position would, without doubt, be clearer in any judgement reached by Commissioners from the Strasbourg commission, were they to intervene.

INTRANSIGENT

Commenting on the funeral of Bobby Sands, Northern director Haughey's stance was clear — as did British premier Margaret Thatcher, after her meeting with SDLP leader John Hume on Wednesday night — the British government's intransigent stance and refusal to budge in prison regulations in response to the five demands in being equivalent to recognising the republicans as political prisoners.

On Friday week, May 15th, both Haughey and his main opposition spokesperson, Free Gael leader Garret FitzGerald, called for the urgent intervention of the European Commissioners. Haughey said such an intervention offered the only hope of achieving a humanitarian and practical solution, while FitzGerald suggested that the Commission should set aside its bureaucratic procedures and perform its functions in accordance with the spirit of the Convention on Human Rights.

Both Haughey and FitzGerald are opposed to the importance of the constitutional approach to this British-provoked crisis will continue to generate support for the IRA.

But all approaches to Thatcher were rejected. Speaking at a Scottish Conservative Party conference last weekend, she announced that the loyalist veto remained in force and rejected criticism of British intransigence.

On American television, director Haughey's stance made the usual use of himself, when attempting to defend the British stance. He wavered into confused ramblings about the 'rapidity of Ireland' over the last sixty years and was attacked by loyalists for seemingly questioning the union.

REJECTED

Thatcher also rejected an appeal for prison reforms from the so-called four Irish-American horsemen — Senator Edward Kennedy, Senator Daniel Moynihan, New York governor Hugh Carey and speaker of the House of Representatives, Tip O'Neill.

She rejected a suggestion for reforms on prison clothing and free association from John Hume, and she ignored a plea from Cardinal O'Reilly, after the death of Francis Hughes, to take action to resolve the crisis before there was another death.

However, the idea of a diversionary intervention from the European Commissioners continued to be revived throughout the week, with Brian Lenihan railing Strasbourg on Thursday night to decide ways of introducing the Commissioners. But, although there have been rumours of the Dublin government taking out a complaint, this seems highly unlikely.

JOINED

Last weekend, the Free State Labour Party leader Frank Chasky joined with Haughey and FitzGerald in suggesting the intervention of the Commissioners to resolve the crisis. (All three mean Free State political parties are opposed to political status and are suggesting further prison reform for a relaxation of prison rules) to reach a settlement.



Free State premier Haughey has refused to break all diplomatic and collaborationist links with Britain, in support of the hunger strikers' five demands.



After two meetings with Free State premier Charles Haughey last Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning, hunger strikers' sister Elizabeth O'Hara (right) and Frances McGrath (left) — and were here accompanied by National H-Block/Armagh Committee member Vincent Doherty (left) — said that they were very disappointed that Haughey had refused to call directly on Thatcher, and that he was not willing to answer whether he supported the prisoners' five demands.

Chasky went further and urged Haughey to directly and publicly appeal to Thatcher to reconsider her position. Something which Haughey has refrained from doing, even when, after the death of Francis Hughes, he made his strongest statement so far, reminiscent of Jack Lynch's 1969 'I shall not stand idly by' speech.

Haughey's 1969 ally, Ned Blaney, who actually visited Bobby Sands during his hunger-strike, made a bold call on Haughey to publicly challenge Thatcher. He said that a failure on her part to respond favourably to his intervention should be understood to mean cessation of all border co-operation on security, together with withdrawal of the Criminal Jurisdiction Act and the Offences

against the State (Amendment) Act. He said Haughey should simultaneously make every effort to galvanise world opinion.

DEATH

The death of Francis Hughes on Tuesday caused Haughey once again to postpone an election announcement, which, on this occasion was due mid-week. Fionn Fáil conventions to select candidates and again booked in this weekend's papers for Fionn Fáil election advertisements have all been cancelled.

Haughey is afraid of cutting to the east his boasts of a special relationship with Thatcher, primarily because in the past she has publicly rebuffed his Foreign Minister Brian Lenihan, and snubbed the three Euro-MPs from the Free State who visited Bobby Sands, and more recently rejected a major appeal from SDLP leader John Hume. Like Hume, Haughey clearly fears an episode of the constitutional approach to British rule which would lead people to conclude that

the IRA is right and armed struggle the only solution.

DIFFICULTIES

There appears to be no appreciation of Haughey's difficulties and the future instability of British rule and influence in Ireland from anyone in Britain, least of all Thatcher.

There has been almost unanimous backing from all British parties for Thatcher's intransigence, but an attempt, coincidentally on the evening of Francis Hughes' death, by some members of Labour's Home Policy Committee, to repudiate the current bipartisan policy failed. And, for making 'disruptive' comments on the situation in the North, the Labour shadow cabinet was reported on Thursday night to be seriously considering asking leading left-winger Tony Benn to resign. Earlier he had described the partition of Ireland as 'a crime against the Irish people'.

SHIFTING THE RESPONSIBILITY

BY BRIAN DELANEY

THE death of IRA Volunteer Francis Hughes in the prison hospital of Long Kesh at 5.43 p.m. last Tuesday, on the fifty-sixth day of his hunger strike for political status, again produced a widespread press response in British and Irish newspapers.

Most of Wednesday's newspapers contained banner headlines and front-page articles announcing the death, and in addition many papers included editorial comments and feature pieces on Francis Hughes' boyhood and republican involvement.

The shooting of the Pope, however, on Wednesday afternoon, at least most British papers - distribution to their staff - so which their headlines away from the hunger strike in Thursday's editions. Indeed, some of the British national newspapers quickly acquired a full-page respect for the publicity that four readers had hitherto realised they possessed, the virulently anti-Catholic *Daily Express* going as far as to editorialise as to describe the Pope as 'the embodiment of good, not, courage and compassion'.

Equally surprised as how to deal with the hunger strike while John Hume's 'realism' are clearly coming to naught, the pro-SOILP *Irish Times* seemed to have, by feigning editorial paralysis and producing an editorial on Wednesday entitled 'The French Election', and on Thursday entitled 'El Salvador'.

Most newspapers concentrated on repeating RUC 'statements of belief' as to how many deaths Francis had been responsible for while an active republican, thus engaging along with the RUC in a cynical game of posthumous conviction of republican activities which they had no evidence to charge him with.

Editorial viewpoints issuing from those who congratulated the British government on 'holding the line' whatever the cost, and those who sought to deny the responsibility for a solution away from where it clearly belongs - with Thatcher and with Haughey - by voicing perplexity over how a solution could now be reached.

Such was the line mumbled through by *The Guardian* which snugly and self approvingly intimated: 'We may hate the whole thing, your MP thinks we would stick it tomorrow, given half a chance. But we are half-honourable men with eyes and ears. And we are stuck.'

But, while such 'liberal' Brits as *The Guardian* represents, get stuck in their moral indecision and debate, republican prisoners are dying, and have died, in the H-Blocks.

THE IRISH TIMES

Watching men die in Long Kesh has become an appalling and a gruesome experience. The whole spectacle has elements of the truly public hangings of old.

So, yesterday's *Irish Times* editorial, 'Watching Men Die', which indicates a possible hardening of the paper's attitude against continuing British intransigence.

Although the editorial cynically accuses the Republican Movement of 'a deliberate set-up' to 'bring hearts' and contains no call on Free State premier Haughey to act, it clearly notes the removal of the 'indefinite ground' in the North (SOILP supporters), and in a relatively critical tone concludes:

'An special consideration is the British law. For God's sake, has not



Last Wednesday's newspapers

everything in the North in the last decade been special?

A far more pointed attack is contained in *Claud Cockburn's* 'Close-Up' column, also on Wednesday, which says:

... it seems that the last people to know how bad the Sands case has made them think in the morning of the world are the unfortunate British public.

Coming on to note that the British declared themselves into thinking that the Free State reaction to Bobby Sands' death was one of 'inefficiency' or the 'unlike reactions' of a few misanthropes, he concludes by noting that not only the British public, but the British establishment is well, inasmuch as they are believing that Britain is loved by people who, in fact, regard it with a mixture of hatred and contempt.

Irish Independent

The *Irish Independent* continues to pursue its putative line of appeasement with Britain. In its Wednesday editorial, casually entitled 'Another death', it poses the question 'what can the Irish Government do?' and answers, miserably:

'If Mr. Haughey supports quietly in Mrs. Thatcher and is openly rebuffed by her, then relations between this country and Britain will deteriorate.'

It goes on to feebly recommend the European Commission of Human Rights as the only possible solution (and, ironically, given the *Independent's* pro-Fine Gael line, the only way of getting Haughey off the hook).

In a more emotive editorial, 'Blackmail', on Thursday, the target not surprisingly is not the British government, but republicans and H-Block supporters.

The reason for the *Independent's* editorial's outburst is this week's so-called rioting in Dublin following Francis Hughes' death, and once again, typically, ignoring completely the responsibility of the British occupation for Northern political

instability, it urges the view that 'The violence must have made a shambles of the North. They must not get their way down here.'

THE IRISH PRESS

Wednesday's editorial in *The Irish Press* writes:

'New free young men who were lost to their own organisation, the Provisional IRA, are becoming folk heroes to the mass media of the world. The reaction in terms of support, resources of all sorts to the Provisional IRA, is going to be astronomical.'

The editorial goes on to say that there are scores of H-Block prisoners 'not even willing but eager to follow in the footsteps of Bobby Sands and Francis Hughes, and says that if Thatcher thinks she can continue allowing hunger strikes to die, 'she is utterly and dangerously wrong'.

Nevertheless, while *The Irish Press* does tentatively suggest some diplomatic pressure, via the European Commission, from the Cabinet House government, it harkens at suggesting the real and urgent necessity of the ending of all diplomatic and collaboration links with Britain, as the only way of saving the lives of following hunger strikers.

NEWS LETTER

The loyalist voice of the North, the *Belfast 'News Letter'*, demonstrates severely its readiness that the hunger strike, and the deaths of hunger strikers, is having no crucial effect on political relationships in Ireland.

In Wednesday's editorial, 'Nailing down the flag', speaking of the 'devastating catastrophe' and 'tragic carnage' which, it claims, it feared, the paper states:

'It was all a sign of the terrible imagination of news editors for removed from the scene.'

Concerning bloody that 'he goes on with a normality that at times surprises even the natives', the whole fragile logic of the *News Letter* comes unstuck a couple of

sentences later with the report that the English Football Association has cancelled a game due to be played in Belfast this weekend.

Abandoning all pretence of 'loyalty', in a classically typical piece of loyalist hysteria, the *News Letter* writes:

'This is an appalling atrocity! Not only by the late Neville Chamberlain. It is a crime where a stand is imperative, at a time when the whole future of the country is threatened and this Province is under siege from a gang of pseudo-nationalists.'

Belfast Telegraph

Attention focuses on Charlie Haughey's belated collaboration with the British government, in the *Belfast Telegraph* editorial on Wednesday, 'Holding the line', which clearly reveals that paper's belief that the Free State premier is buttressing Thatcher's strategy:

'Clearly, Mr. Haughey is emboldened by the continuing failure of emotion, as death follows death, but he, too, must keep his nerve.'

'Like all those opposed to terrorism, and in favour of political alternatives, he can only sit as the hunger strike out, and hope.'

The Irish News

Two whole pages of paid-for insertions by H-Block supporters, including sympathy to the Hughes family on the death of their son Francis, failed to move the *Irish News* sufficiently to publish an editorial on the hunger strike crisis in Thursday's edition, following Wednesday's editorial on 'The French Election'.

Some consolation may be derived, however, from the fact 'we' not even the assassination attempt on the Pope's life moved the *Irish News* editor sufficiently for him to return to his office from his afternoon off, and rewrite his editorial.

Instead, Thursday's editorial 'El

Salvador', stressed readers to such wisdom as:

'A man can be so preoccupied with his own problems that he fails to think about the far greater ones being experienced by his neighbours.'

And it continues, bithy: 'We need to deal on English crimes in Ireland and it would be wrong to deny that such crimes have taken place. But these crimes pale into near insignificance when compared with crimes committed by other countries or regimes against other peoples throughout the world.'

Thus are the deaths of Bobby Sands and Francis Hughes, the hunger strike, and eight hundred years of British occupation, lightly dismissed.

The Daily Telegraph

Convincing? Francis Hughes, posthumously, of the killing of thirty people - in its front-page article, *The Daily Telegraph* editorial on Wednesday, 'A time for courage', ridiculously offers the opinion that governments are too susceptible, in general, to the concept of 'public opinion at home and abroad'.

Congratulating the Thatcher government for doing its duty in the face of 'an efficiently conducted chorus of often fraudulent wails', with the assistance of Labour leader Michael Foot and most of his Labour MPs, the *Telegraph* says: 'There may be plenty of trouble yet to face in Ulster and on the mainland, but not half as much as would have followed from yielding to terrorist demands,' and concludes, with maybe more truth than *The Telegraph* claims: 'The Government's courage will have its reward.'

THE GUARDIAN

Thursday's *Guardian* editorial is a masterpiece of pseudo-moral deliberation which, ultimately, fails - or refuses - to emerge from that deliberation and make a clear political statement of belief.

Nevertheless, it does contain a number of home-truths for the British public: most of them regard Northern Ireland as an 'alien country' and want nothing to do with it; most of its politicians don't understand what is happening there either, and the IRA is not simply a tiny, brutal, unrepresentative minority amongst a minority.

'The *Guardian*' editorial, however, by foolishly hugging the issue of the political motivation of republican freedom fighters with the motivation of an East End bank robber (led by a random GUC election loser?), continues to oppose political status, and, while suggesting 'a little scope for bargaining', gets stuck in its own deliberation.

Daily Mail

'One of the real hard ones', is how Wednesday's editorial in the *Daily Mail*, 'The killer who killed himself', describes Francis Hughes.

The paper goes on to say that Francis Hughes' death will not be a source of moral interest or concern, both because people have become accustomed to 'hunger-strike' deaths, and because Hughes himself cannot be glamourised, except by Republican belief writers.

'Also, conscience has become calloused,' says the *Daily Mail*. So they have. The conviction of Margaret Thatcher and Charles Haughey. But not the still angry and indignant consequences of the Irish people!

BY PETER ADAMS

HARDLY before people had even recovered from the shock and trauma of Bobby Sands' death came the devastating news just before six o'clock last Tuesday evening that his comrade, Francis Hughes, on the fifty-ninth day of his hunger strike, and in a coma, had died at 5.43 p.m. in the H-Block prison hospital.

At Francis Hughes' bedside, when he died, were four members of his family — his sisters, Nora and Maria, and his brother Roger — and Fr. Vincent, a prison chaplain, although in the last few days of his life the prison administration had been placing unnecessary and petty restrictions on the numbers who could sit by Francis' bed.

IMMEDIATE

There was an immediate reaction even on the streets of Belfast, Derry, and Dublin, with the two Northern cities experiencing bitter street rioting. And the British army and RUC, obviously with a brief to add down on any public expression of sympathy, unleashed a wave of terror against peaceful protesters as well as rioters.

The fact that there has initially been less overt international reaction to the death of Francis Hughes even apart from the condemnation of the news by the unsuccessful attempt on the life of the Pope than to that of Bobby Sands, is mistakenly being interpreted by British premier Thatcher that the protests and concern have reached a peak which no subsequent deaths can match.

What undoubtedly the measured statements of Irish State premier Haughey are tempering the attitudes of observers concerned foreign governments and politicians, the appalling prospect of the H-Block emptying through a prosecution of continual hunger strikers' efforts is horrifying Irish opinion which is staring against Haughey's resistance.

IRA

In a statement issued shortly after Francis' death the IRA extended condolences to the Hughes family. "The death of this courageous son Frank after fifty-nine days on hunger strike in the notorious H-Block of Long Kesh," the statement continued, "is one of this struggle's greatest soldiers and never shrank in the face of the English army nor its clutches."

The British commander in the H-Block sent their sympathies to the Hughes family and stated: "In the liberation struggle he was an outstanding soldier, motivated and strengthened by the knowledge that foreign occupation of Ireland and foreign control of Irish resources infringed on the Irish people's God-given right to liberty."

"His death, coming just one week after Bobby Sands' represents the sense of conviction which exists among Irish republican POWs. We are not, under any circumstances whatsoever, going to surrender our principles."

"Bobby Sands and Frank Hughes have given their very lives for these principles and we cannot, and will not, abandon them, or ourselves, by forsaking those principles. Therefore the hunger strike will continue until our demands are met and one of our number will replace Frank Hughes on the hunger strike." (On Thursday morning the replacement was announced as Brendan McLaughlin from North Derry.)

HAUGHEY

Gerry Adams, on behalf at Sinn Féin, offered condolences and said: "Against overwhelming public opinion in Ireland and abroad the British government, by its refusal to grant political prisoners their reasonable demands, stands completely isolated of the murder of yet another Irish freedom fighter. Mrs Thatcher should now accept that her attempts to persuade the hunger strikers have failed. Charles Haughey must also accept his responsibility, as his silence is clearly being used by Thatcher to aggravate the British government's intransigent position."

The widespread pressure on Haughey did force a response from him and he made the highest moral threat that "no Irish government can be indifferent to a prospect of these deaths continuing."

He also made his by now ritual, and tedious, but politically popular, contribution to involving parliament by announcing that the deaths had "confirmed once more that Northern Ireland, as at present constituted, is no longer a viable political entity. A new political arrangement is the only possible way forward in peace."

Immediate reaction



▲ The militancy of nationalist youth on the streets has clearly shown the North in its true light as a war zone, right over the political 'middle ground', and left the Brits' 'normalisation' policy in tatters

However, Haughey still refrains from publicly calling upon Thatcher, with whom he allegedly has "a special relationship", to grant the prisoners their demands.

Even after meeting, last Wednesday, Teresa McDermott and Elizabeth Kelly, whose brothers Raymond McDermott and Patsy O'Hara are on hunger strike, Haughey still resisted appeals from them to publicly call upon Thatcher to grant the prisoners their five demands. The deaths of Bobby Sands and Francis Hughes also effectively ruled out the plans he had for dissolving Lancaster House last Friday and announcing a general election for June 11th.

O'FLAHERTY

Cardinal O'Flaherty responded to the death of Francis Hughes by asking the hunger strikers to end their fast. He said the British government could have solved the crisis on several occasions during the past three years. "How many more Irishmen must go to their graves inside and outside the prison

before intransigence gives way to a constructive effort to find a solution?" he asked.

The cardinal, in a telegram which he sent to Thatcher, said: "I now repeat my earnest request to you and the Cabinet to abandon the infeasible policy in Northern Ireland regarding prison diets and the imprisonment of prisoners at work or recreation."

"In God's name, don't allow another death. I beseech you to make the move immediately. Please send a representative to talk to the prisoners' spokesman."

This Thatcher refused to do.

AMERICAN

However, Thatcher did reply to an earlier criticism by four leading Irish-American politicians, one of whom, Senator Edward Kennedy, upon criticised the British government upon the death of Francis Hughes. He said: "It is a death that might have been avoided by a more flexible approach from the British government."

In fact, Thatcher said her govern-

ment was not inflexible or intransigent and could not and would not change its H-Block prison policy. Senator Kennedy immediately accused Thatcher of 'unfailing inflexibility' which would achieve nothing but more deaths. He asked: "Surely it is time for Britain to break the deadly spiral of death in Northern Ireland?"

HUME

Thatcher also rejected a plea from SDLP leader John Hume, the so-called 'daring' of the British administration who keeps the Catholics on 'the middle path'. He had a well-publicised but not surprisingly unproductive hour-and-a-half meeting with her last Wednesday. Even before he met her to discuss the H-Block his whole purpose was undermined by television political commentators, primarily oriented by Thatcher officials, who told viewers that Thatcher would be making no response.

Hume later said that he received a "list no. 1" to his suggestions (on clothes and free association) which have been criticised by Republicans and the prisoners for separating them from the five demands as a 'package settlement'.

Hume's meeting will probably have done him no harm politically — as he can claim to have done his best but failed. But his criticism of Thatcher (he described her as being in 'implacable mood') was hardly harsh enough. And he still has not supported the five demands, nor exercised all his political muscle by, for example, breaking off all meetings with Adams and announcing a policy of SDLP withdrawal from the councils after next week's local government elections.

Loyalists have been more than satisfied by Thatcher's 'no surrender' stance over the hunger strike because it supports well the reinforcement of the Union. They have been uneasy enough over the Catholics of Turf Lodge and Derry defending themselves against tanks and the rifles of the British army and RUC.

Landing Official Unions have been calling for petrol bombers to be shot, for the reintroduction of water cannon and tear gas, and the deployment of more SAS units along the border.

TATTERS

Thatcher's inflexibility is having a disastrous effect from a British point of view: on the nationalist community in the North and the 'normalisation' policy is in tatters; with the image of the murderous, sectarian RUC as tarnished as ever, with the international media clearly following the course of the courageous hunger strike in the prison camp, and with the militancy of nationalist youth on the streets combining with the British military presence to give the North its correct image as a war zone; and, earth-shatteringly for the British public, the English Football Association cancelled the international soccer match against the Northern Ireland team due to be played in Belfast this Sunday.

British political reaction to the death of Francis Hughes has been one of continuing support for Thatcher (including endorsements from a public opinion poll). Only the intervention of Labour left-winger Tony Benn caused a minor ruffle, although he personally is being threatened with political ostracism and being given the 'option' of resigning.

In New York members of the city's largest labour union have shown their support behind the hunger strikers. They have promised to supply money and men to stage demonstrations against the British. And in Boston, the city council has renamed the street in which the British consulate is situated. It is now called Francis Hughes Avenue.



An aerial view of the BP oil terminal at Sullis Voe, Shetland, showing (boxed) the power station where the explosion occurred on Saturday during the Queen's visit. The arrow shows where the Queen and Prince Philip stopped.

IRA attempt to kill Queen

FOLLOWING the IRA bomb attack at an oil terminal on the Shetland Islands off the northern coast of Scotland whilst the British monarch, Queen Elizabeth, was on an official visit there last Saturday, the IRA pointed out that had they managed to place the bomb close enough to her then she would now be dead.

This dire threat was issued through the Irish Republican Publicity Bureau in Dublin and was signed by P. O'Neill.

The IRA pointed out that: "While the British occupation of Ireland continues then members of the British ruling class and administration will continue to be subject to IRA attacks. They have a choice. The Irish people, who live under British terror, do not."

EXPLOSION

The midday explosion at the Sullis Voe oil terminal on Saturday was in the terminal's main power station, a quarter of a mile away from where the English Queen and Prince Philip were attending the terminal's inauguration ceremony. The pair were within minutes of formally opening the terminal, having arrived at the Shetland Islands in the royal yacht.

The explosion, caused by 7lbs. of gelignite, was in Europe's largest oil terminal, owned by British Petroleum, where millions of gallons of oil are daily piped in from the

North Sea oilfields. The explosion happened at a point high in the power station and debris was scattered over a congested area.

Saturday's IRA operation was a breach of Elizabeth's security comparable to a previous one, in 1977, during the Queen's jubilee year visit to the occupied counties of Ireland, when bombs landed in the grounds of Coláiste University exploded shortly before, and after, a royal visit.

At that time the British administration denied that bombs had been placed, but the IRA's claim was later confirmed by British army Brigadier James Glover (now Commander of Land Forces in the North), who admitted that a bomb on a long (two long) delay electronic timer had been inside the university grounds during the Queen's visit.

BREACH

Last weekend, in order to

minimise the loss of face to the British establishment caused by yet another IRA breach of their bejewelled mascot's security, the Scottish police, on terminal officials, and the British media - presumably orchestrated by British Home Office officials - played down both the attack and the IRA's Saturday lunchtime claims of responsibility to Reuters press agency and, via the Belfast republican press centre, to the media at large.

A reporter, who was covering the inauguration, said that when men made on the spot enquiries on Saturday lunchtime about the IRA's claim, they were told by police that it was a hoax, Elizabeth's entourage, including security officers, dismissed it as a hoax and writing senior police officers did nothing to disturb that view.

From Saturday to Wednesday the official line changed gradually, day by day. From no explosion, on Saturday; to an explosion by an



The British monarch showing the flag in Ireland in August 1977. The IRA claimed its previous major breach of her security at Coláiste University during the jubilee visit.

unknown cause, on Sunday evening; to an explosion, not due to a technical or equipment fault, as BP attempted on Tuesday to shift the

blame away from themselves; and finally, as Scottish police confirmed on Wednesday, to an explosion caused by high explosives!

Red faces after green alert

POLICE FORCES throughout Britain were put on alert last weekend by Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad, after a London garage attendant reported seeing a man with a Sten sub-machine gun, who spoke with an Irish brogue.

But the nationwide search to prevent a feared IRA campaign in Britain, following the death of Bobby Sands less than a week before, ended when police pinpointed - in a full-scale operation involving a police helicopter - on a man as he drove a car out of an Exeter garage.

The man, his wife and eight-year-old son, and two others, were arrested at gunpoint and led away.

Five hours later there were red faces at the local police station and at the Yard's "reach" anti-terrorist unit when they released thirty-eight-year-old Exeter builder David Brooks, whose Devon accent had been mistaken for an Irish one, during a weekend trip to London.

And the Sten gun - well, it turned out to be a "telescope-looking" car jack!

THATCHER SCARE

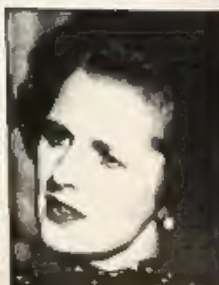
NOT on the heels of the IRA's successful breach of the British Queen Elizabeth's security last weekend, with the bomb explosion at the Sullis Voe oil terminal in the Shetlands, comes news of a security "scare" involving British premier Margaret Thatcher.

In spite of a major step-up in security surrounding Thatcher following the deaths of the hunger-strikers, it has been revealed, in Friday's *Daily Mirror*, that a copy of all her private and public engagements for the next six days was found lying on a table at the House of Commons.

A major scare has been caused by this lapse, that resulted in the most confidential document, which

even includes the times of Thatcher's frequent hair-dressing appointments, leaving the confines of No. 10 Downing Street from where it is strictly never meant to move.

An official investigation is now underway as to how it became available perhaps even to the eyes of the IRA sympathisers who are supposedly lurking in the ranks of the British Labour Party.



IRA ATTACKS TAKE THEIR TOLL

IRA ATTACKS against British occupation forces in the North dramatically escalated following, firstly, the Belfast funeral of republican hunger-striker Bobby Sands on Thursday afternoon, May 7th, and then, secondly, the death of Francis Hughes, on Tuesday evening, May 12th, who also died in the H-Blocks at British hands.

The attacks, resulting in serious injury to several British soldiers, have been against a background of popular street violence directed against riot-dad British troops and RUC gunmen prowling the fringes of nationalist ghettos and driving through the streets in their armoured tanks and cars.

A major blow to the morale of the RUC, and to their insatiable drive to inflict maximum suffering on the nationalist population, was delivered, on Thursday night in Belfast, in a successful IRA attack using an RPG-7 rocket launcher against an RUC landrover.

One RUC man was killed and four others injured, one critically, when the rocket hit the back of the vehicle, pierced the armour plating and exploded inside blowing off the roof, as its occupants prepared to launch another plastic bullet attack on youths on the Springfield Road near its junction with Whitehead Road.

ROCKET ATTACK

The excellent IRA attack on the vehicle, from a range of approximately one hundred yards, resulted in the first death of an RUC man under rocket attack in a vehicle.

The effect of the blow is emphasised by the fact that the RPG-7 had not been used for some time by the IRA in the North and British army intelligence apparently believed that all had been captured.

The Russian-made RPG-7, which is fired from a hand-held launch tube, has been used on several occasions in the past during IRA attacks on British army and RUC bases with varying success.

Thursday's successful operation is a pointer to the expertise of IRA active service units, now operating in the current upsurge of republican military activity.

TYRONE BOMBS

Following Bobby Sands' death on Tuesday 5th May, near subsequent days saw reported in that week's *An Phoblach* (Republican News), there were a number of attacks on troops and RUC men in Belfast, Derry city, and South Armagh, resulting in particular, in the killing of an RUC man in north Belfast.

In County Tyrone, on the evening of Wednesday 6th May, the day after Bobby Sands' death, there were a number of IRA commercial bomb attacks.

Considerable damage was caused to the golf club in Fintona by two bombs. The Hall Way House public bar in Fintona was used by the RUC, between Cookstown and Pomeroy, was bombed.

Two bombs exploded at a super market on the Cabra Road, Dungannon, and an explosion damaged the offices of Finlay's Concrete Products, also in Dungannon.

Five shots were fired at the RUC on the Donaghmore Road but



▲ An IRA rocket exploded inside an RUC landrover blowing off the roof and killing one of the occupants

no hits were claimed by the IRA. Rocketing in Dungannon continued for the second successive night and three RUC men were injured in an IRA hand-grenade attack in Ann Street. The RUC were eventually driven out of the nationalist ward west of Dungannon and youths established a 'no go' area.

BARRACKS BOMBED

Last weekend, two British army barracks were mortar bombed by the IRA in separate attacks.

Two British soldiers were injured in a mortar bomb and gun attack on Newtownhamilton barracks in South Armagh on Friday night, May 8th. It was almost a carbon copy of the rocket blast on the village barracks two years ago when a soldier was killed.

Nine missiles were fired from the back of a lorry in Newry Street in this latest attack on the fortified target, which suffered considerable damage. The mortars were set off with an electronic timing device from the unmarked lorry.

As troops moved in to examine the lorry it blew up, although none of the soldiers, who also came under IRA gunfire, were injured.

The following night, Saturday, Rostee barracks in County Fermanagh came under mortar bomb attack from the IRA.

Three British soldiers were injured, one seriously, when the missiles hit a hut inside the complex and set it on fire. The mortars were fired from a lorry placed in position three hundred yards away.

They were detonated by remote control, but, unlike the mortar attack on Newtownhamilton barracks the previous night, there was not a self-destruct mechanism on the lorry.

BELFAST ATTACKS

Between the funeral of Bobby Sands and the death of Francis Hughes there came a number of specifically claimed IRA attacks on British troops and RUC men in Belfast.

On Friday 4th May, a single shot was fired at troops in the Mough Road in Turf Lodge in the west of the city. No hit was claimed.

During the evening the shots were fired at the RUC in Elm Quay in Ardoyne in the north of the city. Four of the RUC men were injured



as they dived for cover. One shot was hit in the leg, and the soldier in the arm. One of them was later said to be 'seriously ill' in hospital.

During Tuesday evening, May 12th, following news of the death of Francis Hughes, there were — against a background of fierce rioting, including petrol bombing — numerous gun attacks on British troops and RUC men in nationalist areas of the city.

These included attacks in Andersonstown, Lenadoon, Terenure, Turf Lodge, Ballymurphy, Beechmount, St James, Lower Falls, Ardoyne, and Old Park. A soldier was slightly injured when his patrol came under fire in the Upper Springfield Road area.

On Wednesday evening the attacks were renewed.

In particular, more than half-a-dozen shots were fired at the RUC in one ambush in Beechmount in the west of the city, while a British soldier was seriously injured in the chest, and rushed to hospital, following a bomb attack on a foot patrol passing the junction of Herbert Street and Cranlin Road in the north of the city.

On Thursday evening, the IRA mounted a gun attack on a British army footpatrol in Ros Road in the lower Falls. Although no hits were admitted by the British army a military ambulance was brought to the scene of the ambush. As in all other attacks through the week the Volunteers returned safely to base.

DERRY ATTACKS

Again, in Derry, there were IRA gun and bomb attacks on British troops between the funeral of Bobby Sands and the death of Francis Hughes, and the attacks escalated following news of Francis Hughes' death.

On Thursday night, May 7th, an RUC man received shrapnel wounds in his arm and legs when a bomb exploded near him in the Fountain area of the city.

During Friday afternoon, shots were fired at soldiers and RUC men in four different attacks, but no hits were claimed.

Gun attacks continued against a background of rioting. On Sunday, more than twenty petrol bombs, six blast bombs and acid bombs were thrown at British troops and RUC men in William Street and at the Beech's gate area.

On Monday night a British army mobile patrol came under fire. Enemy fire was returned but there were no casualties on either side.

As elsewhere in the North, gun attacks and rioting were more numerous and intense in Derry city following the death of Francis Hughes on Tuesday evening, than the response was week previously to the death of Bobby Sands.

More than three hundred petrol bombs were thrown by rioters in the hours following Hughes' death. The city's library headquarters was virtually razed by petrol bombs, causing more than half-a-million pounds worth of damage.

Popular



• Hundreds of young, and not so young, men and women openly confront the British army and RUC



• Local people use heavy mechanical digger and commandeered vehicles to block entry into the nationalist ghettos



• Behind make-shift barricades nationalist youths wait for the enemy

SPORADIC but intense bouts of rioting continued over the past week in many areas in the North, with some districts fighting non-stop battles with the British army and RUC, as popular anger flared in response to Britain's death policy in the H-Blocks.

Following the tragic news on Tuesday that Francis Hughes, the second hunger striker, had died in Long Kesh, hundreds of youths took to the streets armed with petrol, acid and blast bombs to confront British forces. The tens and hundreds of rioting lasted into the early hours of Wednesday evening in many nationalist areas.

Rioting, often instigated by the provocative behaviour of the RUC and RUC, was still heavy in a few areas of Belfast and Derry, last weekend, following the explosion at a house on the streets after the death of Bobby Sands.

BELFAST

In Belfast, at Derris flats, local youths kept up continuous battles with the RUC and Brits, and attempts to penetrate the area were met with whistle-blowing and bottle-throwing.

Rioting on a lesser scale also occurred in Ardoyne and on the Falls Road. The RUC admitted that in a matter of days fifteen hundred petrol bombs had been thrown at them in Belfast.

On Monday night the British army made attempts to remove barricades which had been erected in the Twinstreet estate, since before the funeral of Bobby Sands. The incursions met with a fierce resistance as local people fought in defence of their area.

DIED

On Tuesday evening, at about quarter-to-six, news spread that Francis Hughes had died on the fifty-ninth day of his hunger strike. Growing anger and frustration burst onto the streets as hundreds of young, and not so young, men and women prepared for open confrontation with the British army and the RUC.

Barricades went up immediately in many areas and petrol and acid bombs were manufactured openly on the streets, particularly in Belfast and Derry. Early on, into the areas were made by mobile enemy patrols, before barricades went up and the RUC and Brits used this opportunity to inflict as much damage as possible.

Plastic bullets were fired at crowds hanging back, and peaceful pickets were disrupted. Many injuries resulted from these attacks, including the fatal injury of a fourteen-year-old girl at Lismacdonagh. Hatred for the Brits was further inflamed in this way.

DERRY

Heavy rioting broke out in Derry, Belfast, Dungannon and Lurgan.

In Derry hundreds of youths launched an attack on Royal Ulster Constabulary barracks using petrol bombs. Seven blast bombs were also thrown at the barracks and an army hut inside the grounds was set on fire.

Rioting also took place in the centre of the town where petrol and blast bombs were again thrown at the RUC and the Brits.

In the Waterside there was strong resistance from the Goliards area with several petrol

(Continued on next page)

anger flares

A PHOBLAICHT PRESS REPORT

Bombing tonight directly on the 40th anniversary of the night the British in the Shankill area used a variety of mechanical devices to attack the local Irish Free State Black community.

PRESSURE

In Belfast the British and RUC were given a warning heavy pressure withholding totally with many arms. Roads were blocked and heavy using control until the early hours in Antrim, Slough, Swindon, Ballinacorney, Lonsdown, Short St and Berrymount St, James, Lower Rd, Clonard, Ardara and the Markets.

For around 8000 the British and RUC threatened from much of the Falls Road taking the air to the roads of massive youths who participated the streets.

In New Barnley an obvious British officer received a lesson in caution when a petrol bomb set him ablaze. The incident was flash and around the petrol-bomb scene of the road. And petrol bombs rained down on the British and RUC vehicles in the Falls Road last night and in the Markets.

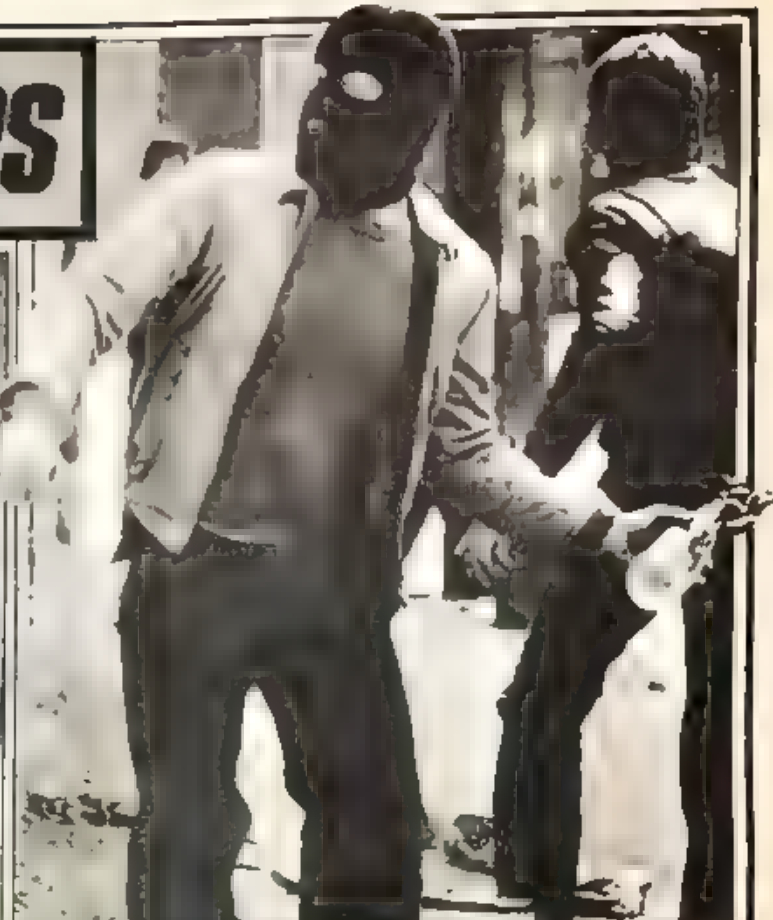
DUNGANNON

In Dungannon, following a large rally in Ann Street, fighting began in the George's Street area, during which the offices of the Tyrone Courier were set alight. Rioting continued until the early hours in this area, while another battle was under way in the Ballyvaugh Road.

Several vehicles were commandeered and set alight, and a timber yard was also set on fire. The RUC used live rounds in addition to gas to bullets in an unsuccessful attempt to contain the popular resistance.

In various street battles were also fought during the evening of the 10th, in the Shankill area, while rioting also broke out in Craigavon.

With the removal of Francis Hughes remains to his home in



Belfast a period of mourning began which brought on a heavy and unreal calm to most areas.

But by Wednesday it was clear that within the nationalist areas there are growing numbers who are losing faith in the possibility of peaceful protest in the face of British intervention in the 10th Black and served force on the streets.



A Bin lid being on Tuesday evening, outside the Republican Press Centre on Belfast's Falls Road, announces the death of hunger-striker Francis Hughes.

Plastic bullet terror

THE continued firing of lethal plastic bullets by British army and RUC gunmen, not only at rioters, but also on occasion - indiscriminately at peaceful protesters and passers-by in nationalist ghettos of Belfast and Derry city during the last week has led to the death of a young teenage girl in Belfast and the injuring of countless others, ranging from small children to elderly people.

Fourteen-year-old Julie Liffelagh from Liffelagh in Belfast was shot with a plastic bullet on Tuesday evening, and died as a result of her injuries on Wednesday afternoon.

The girl's attack was suddenly mounted by British forces on rioters and children engaged in a bonfire burning at the Semper's Town Road, near Greenway's shop to protest at the death of a young man, at Fingert Hughes.

The crowd tried to find cover when the gunmen opened up on them but, when the firing stopped, Julie Liffelagh was found lying in a pool of blood.

A friend of Julie's, sixteen-year-old Paula Liffelagh, recalls just after 8 p.m. we went on a message to my mother's. On our way back up again a car came along. Everyone started to run. There were about forty or fifty people around, mostly women and children. The car behind the hedge of a sort of field. When we went to get up Julie coughed.

There is some confusion over whether the fatal plastic bullet was fired by the British army or RUC. But that matter was complicated there is no doubt.

Even RUC spokesman Kevin Smith, of the Sticky Republic, said yesterday that the police had received eyewitness reports that the car of RUC landowner had a plastic bullet at Julie's. He found that there was no one sitting in the car, and the RUC man concerned had a clean view and took deliberate aim.

Julie died in hospital on Wednesday afternoon. She was the youngest of thirteen children. Two of her brothers are in the H-Block at Long Kesh. Patrick, who is

serving a sentence of natural life and Martin, who is serving twenty-five years.

DERRY

Throughout the week there were continuous reports of serious injuries as a result of British/RUC shootings.

On Thursday night, May 14th, sixteen-year-old Paul Ryan from the Waterside in Derry was found on his back by a plastic bullet following which he was rushed to RUC men, meaning a wound to the face which required six stitches.

The following night, in the Shan-tallow area of Derry, a sixteen-year-old girl, Patricia Doherty, was hit on the chest by a plastic bullet and at close range from a British army landmine.

He fell to the ground and was assaulted by several British who then arrested him. They took him to the back of the landmine. Patricia Doherty passed out. He awoke in a car in St. Mary's hospital and was eventually taken to hospital where it was determined that his skull had been fractured.



● PATRICIA DOHERTY aged 16
skull fractured

Another casualty of Friday night in Derry was a twelve-year-old girl from the Crumlin area who was returning home from a night of visiting friends.

RUC men - led at them from point blank range hitting the youth on the face. She was taken to hospital for treatment and a half hour in surgery for lost an eye which was completely shattered.

BELFAST

Friday night in Belfast also saw serious injuries being inflicted on two youths and a man from riotous areas.

Donald McGinnis, from the New Lodge area, was hit in the thigh by a tear-gas canister. RUC men opened fire on him.

In Ardoyne, twenty-year-old John Weaver was hit on the head and chest by plastic bullets of the British army. He was leaving the Crumlin Star social club.

He was knocked unconscious and remained so for almost two days. He is still recovering from one side of his body.

Thirty-year-old Alistair Parker, from the Waterside area was hit in the head by a plastic bullet, inflicting a wound which required a brain operation.

On Saturday evening, in the Fish Road area, RUC men again opened fire with plastic bullets at the corner of London Street. There was only minor damage to the area at the time.

A sixteen-year-old Dominic Martin was struck from close range on the head. He was rushed to the Royal Victoria Hospital where he was put on a life-support machine and placed in an intensive care unit. He is now waiting for doctors to decide if he can be removed from the machine.

Following the death of Francis Hughes on Tuesday evening, the incidence of injuries increased alarmingly. Late on Tuesday night there were reports of at least fifty injuries on the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast. Fifty and fifty injuries were reported.

One of the first to be twenty-year-old Francis O'Donnell from the Lower Falls, mother of a five-month-old child.

She was standing in Salmon Street when her RUC landmine



● JULIE LIFFELAGH aged 14
shot by British army - fatal bullet wound



● 21-year-old John Weaver
eye shattered by plastic bullet



● MICHAEL MAGINNIS
hit in thigh by tear gas



● DOMINIC MARTIN, aged 16
in intensive care unit

appeared. The RUC fired a second one of the plastic bullets through his left eye and the right eye. Two men who went to help and were both hit upon and hit by plastic bullets. Francis Short being struck on the arm and Victor Ansell on the head and leg.

On Wednesday, just after midnight, four and a half-year-old David Madden was driving out of the Holy Trinity school in Fair Lodge with his seven-year-old brother Tony. The RUC fired into the car and opened fire with plastic bullets on the ground, leaving school.

Young David was struck on the back of the head and was taken to hospital where he received five stitches for his wounds.

Later on Wednesday, at about half-past six, children were again the target of the RUC. Five-year-old Neil Liffelagh from the Crumlin area was taking a walk in a shop when the RUC

opened fire. He was struck on the left leg, the plastic bullet passing off skin which he had previously had grafted on over burn wounds.

The use of these lethal plastic bullets by the British army and the RUC has increased dramatically over the past few days. Meanwhile there are mounting demands for even more lethal and control weapons to be used to quell the rising anger of the nationalist people. Widespread concern and fear are amongst those supported by Official Unionist leader James Molyneux.



● NEIL LIFFELAGH aged 5
plastic bullet tore at graft off burn wound

Divis man shot dead

A TWENTY-ONE YEAR OLD NEARLY from Divis 4, in Belfast's Shankill Road, was shot dead by the British army on Tuesday evening. Two-and-a-half-hour after 8 p.m. a young man was shot dead.

Francis McLaughlin, a twenty-one-year-old man, was shot dead by a British soldier on Tuesday evening. He was shot in the chest by a British soldier. He was shot in the chest by a British soldier. He was shot in the chest by a British soldier.

Shortly before 8 p.m. on Tuesday, the British army shot dead a man in the Divis area. The man was shot in the chest by a British soldier. He was shot in the chest by a British soldier. He was shot in the chest by a British soldier.



● FRANCIS MCLAUGHLIN aged 21
shot dead by British army



One day to live

By EAM DOYLE

WHEN the steadily deteriorating health of twenty-five-year-old South Derry republican Francis Hughes took a critical turn for the worse on Monday morning, thirty hours before he died on Tuesday evening, and with him beginning to slip in and out of consciousness on his fifty-eighth day without food, his parents were amongst those who immediately went to his bedside in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh.

On Monday evening, *An Phoblacht* Republican News reporter Seamus Boyd spoke to Mr Patrick Joseph Hughes, a tall dignified man of seventy-two years of age, in the Hughes' newly-built bungalow adjacent to their old farmhouse on their small farm in the townland of Tamlaghtduff near Bellaghy. At that time Francis had less than twenty-four hours to live.

A shaken Mr Hughes recalled the traumatic visit to his determined son earlier that day. "When we first saw him I thought he was dead. He was just lying there. So I caught him by the hand and I said 'do you know me?' And he woke up and although he could not see us and 'that's' clearly, when the mother spoke and he said 'that's' mummy. He told the mother not to be crying and that he was going to heaven and not to worry."

Francis' tremendous spirit of courage and self-sacrifice, on behalf of the other prisoners and the republican cause immediately shone through. His father recalled: "He said to me 'I'm going to die. He said 'Don't see it as a loss, the men coming behind will get the benefit. We didn't go out the strike for ourselves, he said, we went on it for justice for the men coming behind us. He was getting weaker and weaker and he kept closing his eyes to get a bit of sleep."

CONDITION

From Monday, members of the Hughes family - Francis' his sisters and three brothers - mounted a round-the-clock battle until his death.

Until Monday the family, especially Francis' mother Mrs Margaret Hughes, aged 68, had remained optimistic and had held on to some hope that mounting Irish and international pressure would have forced the British government to concede the prisoners' demands in time to save the life of Francis and the lives of his fellow hunger strikers.

The shattering effect on members of a family of seeing their son and brother dying on hunger-strike, can only be too easily be underestimated. While remaining fully behind Francis, the Hughes family were all terribly upset on Monday to find him at death's door and pleased that at that stage his health had already deteriorated so far that any condition would have been irreversible even if a settlement had come quickly.

His physical condition was much worse compared even with the (medically) previous days, when he was already terribly weakened and weakened, and virtually blind by a terrible thing to see a young man dying," said Mr Hughes, "but amazingly he was still in great spirits."

"His face was just yellow with eyes sunken, but the same as a corpse lying there. I said 'do you see me Francis?' He said 'I see the shape of you but I can't see your face. When he had got a few deep he choked away and caught my hand and held it tight. I said to him 'you're not too bad' and he said 'ah now, tomorrow or



Mr and Mrs Hughes, at home in Bellaghy, shortly before their son's death

Wednesday will see the launch of it." Francis died shortly before a doctor came on Tuesday the next evening.

VISITORS

Monday evening's *An Phoblacht* Republican News interview with Mr Hughes was held in a small rear back bedroom of the Hughes bungalow, the room dominated by a large crucifix on the wall and with a panoramic view from the window revealing the rolling slopes around the Scarra Road where British soldiers and RUC men faced a trial before Francis' capture in March 1978.

The interview was necessarily confined to the back room because the bungalow was full of visitors. At any one time, and with people frequently coming and going in cars, the large typically country-style kitchen was full of more than a dozen male relatives, close neighbours, men from Dargan and Hughes, and even strangers from throughout the county whilst the sitting room was full of women, again neighbours and relatives, and all sitting in solidarity with Francis and the Hughes family, placidly awaiting the latest news of his condition, and leaving this all too soon they would have to return to Francis' wake after his death at the hands of the intransigent British government.

One young man from Berragh asked me why I thought the British were being so stubborn on this question, and would not compromise even now, is the Movement's view? said, the British government's in-flexible stance stems from the idea to view that they can inflict a significant defeat on the IRA, and the morale of its

supporters, through breaking the hunger-strike and defeating the prisoners' struggle. The young man responded that currently in South Derry, and particularly Strathgilly (where following Bobby Sands' death the town had been taken over for a number of hours), support for the IRA had never been larger and the amount of business being done up amongst the people would fuel republican resistance for many a long year.

The sentence in the Hughes home of the visiting people - had been extended daily for more than the previous week from morning time until the early hours of the next morning, according to the same young man. This, Mr Hughes explained, was because Francis was such a well-known and popular IRA man in County Derry.

NATIVE

Mr Hughes, a typical South Derry nationalist rooted in the land, describes himself as a 'native', a republican and a believer in the duty and tradition of the men of '68, the United Irishmen.

He considers the basic cause of the present troubles to be that Britain gave the 'planters' the counties of Ireland in 1521. Britain was then prepared to sit and watch or ignore what went on, he states, referring to the purely secular nature of the judiciary state, until the civil rights movement, and then the IRA, came along.

Mr Hughes prefers to use the terms 'natives' and 'planters' rather than Catholics and Protestants, for as he rightly says religion doesn't come into it, it's just a question of power.

His hour-long chat with this *AN PHOBLAICHT* interviewer was twice interrupted. Once for Mr Hughes to welcome to his home a man

who and children who had driven down from County Antrim to visit Francis and the Hughes family and to show their support for the hunger strike. And, the second time to give a lot of outdoor news view to a newspaper television camera crew, who were amongst the many media then to descend on the Hughes family in the days before Francis' death.

Standing at a farm gate post, Mr Hughes looked an impressive figure as he quietly explained to the visiting television for the first time that he did not regret Francis joining the IRA. That Francis had only taken up the gun because of his own injuries in his legs and that although he

Mr Hughes had originally been opposed to the hunger strike once he saw that his son was determined to go on it, he and the rest of the family were 100% behind him.

RETURN

Returning once more to the back room, Mr Hughes recalled how anxious Francis had been initially on a visit with all those long weeks ago - that the family should understand and support his hunger-strike action once Mr Hughes had told his son that he was firmly behind him. Francis had shaken him firmly by the hand and thanked him.

Mr Hughes - later to be backed up by another of his sons, Oliver, aged 35 - said that he and the family were increasingly bitter at the attitude of the British government in letting the hunger-strikers die rather than granting them their just demands.

Mr Hughes also said "I'm very much disappointed with Charlie Hughes because he hasn't come out and spoken in support of the hunger strikers. I expected him to. His father was raised on a farm up the road here at Serragh and had to leave because of fighting the Brits. On the Free State, he was a leader and he joined the efforts to introduce the constitution and the Irish Free State. He was a leader in the European Commission on Human Rights. Mr Hughes said: "I think it's only a bluff. It's only propaganda. It means nothing. He just doesn't want to do anything. He's just getting himself off the hook. He should call for support for the five demands."

DEAD

Concluding the interview, Mr Hughes said how hard it had been to leave his son in the H-Blocks that day and that he feared he would be dead within days if not hours. The hunger strike he said "it's a bad lot. I only hope something good can come out of it after the death of a man. I hope that can only be turned into reality by the actions of campaigners, voters and volunteers on the outside making the Brits pay for their inhumanity and returning their deserved criminal status before even more lives are lost."

Shortly after the *AN PHOBLAICHT* interview with Mr Hughes, his son Oliver returned from Francis' bedside in Long Kesh, in an emotional state of distress at the condition of his much beloved and respected brother. Oliver condemned the British government for his brother's impending death and for that of Bobby Sands.

Oliver recalled how one week previously Francis had shared his copious prayers with Bobby's cell and then at about 1.30 in the morning he heard the prayers for the dead and he knew that he had gone.

Two of Francis' sisters who also visited him on Monday Vera, aged 37, a housewife from Magherafelt, and Nora, aged 25, a nurse in Belfast, spoke of their sadness at Francis' plight, and at their difficulty in grasping that short of a political miracle - their brother would soon be dead. They had come to the family home to comfort their mother Margaret, Francis' youngest sister, Delour, aged 24, was one of the family still at his bedside and had remained with him, determined to stay in the prison until the strike ended.

THE FUNERAL OF FRANCIS HUGHES



RA living party with sister at home



Mr Hughes (left) and his wife, the young daughter (right) in the living room



Thousands throng the lanes of South Derry

THE FUNERAL OF FRANCIS HUGHES

THE HARASSMENT of Francis Hughes in life, which was one of the reasons he joined the IRA, continued even with his death and the hijacking of his body by the RUC last Wednesday in contravention of the wishes of his family that it be taken through West Belfast where several thousand people had gathered to pay homage. The British, who feared him in life, considered him, and the emotions he aroused, a force to be reckoned with even in death.

The RUC invoked the Flags and Emblems Act to forcibly re-direct the route of the funeral cortege. In Belfast, after leaving the morgue in Foster Green Hospital, it was sent through the loyalist estate of Ballymore Park.

This diversion, when the mourners were assaulted, led to a breach of public order which was one of the ostensible reasons the RUC had in prohibiting the funeral from passing through West Belfast. In this incident an RUC man spat on the hearse containing Francis Hughes' body.

Last Friday, the day of the funeral, mourners were harassed and were forced by the RUC to dismount several times outside a Belfast pub and make their way on foot to St Mary's church. The home of Seán Mac Stíofaigh, a Belfast man, was the scene of a massive crowd of people gathered upon thousands of people streamed through Belfast to watch Seán Mac Stíofaigh.

At one point a short cut path was made across a large field, squeezing the huge out of the grave which gave off a sweet almost funeral still. They had commandeered a grand view of the surrounding countryside and one could visualise the young Francis Hughes' entry and on the run, tramping across similar fields by moonlight all alone.

Along many of the lanes there were great numbers of cobble and RUC men, as well as vehicles including army lorries, armoured cars, Shorlandts and jeeps. Behind

the hearse and on a high bank were RUC men with shotguns, one of whom yelled and said "What about ya?" before naturally adding, "You bastard".

FIRE

At the bottom of an avenue of tall trees at the end of Hughes' lane, the Volunteers of the Irish Republican Army presented a line and fired three rifle volleys over the coffin of their dead comrade. A guard of honour from the IRA and Cumann na mBan marched slowly as the coffin was carried first by members of the Hughes family and then by French before being placed in the hearse.

It was the family's intention to take the funeral procession through the predominantly nationalist town of Ballygally but they were prevented from doing this by a thick column of RUC jeeps and a wall of barricade. Four helicopters maintained an aerial surveillance of the whole procession.

Mr Joseph Hughes, Francis' father, approached the barricade and said to the RUC brass present that he went to chase every Sunday along this road and he now wanted to bring his dead son to the church. The RUC were unmoved and after Mr Hughes protested the funeral cortege then took a circuitous route to St Mary's in Ballygally for requiem mass.

WREATHS

Afterwards, Frater Michael Farrington officiated at the grave side service.

Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Hughes family, GHQ Irish

Republican Army, Derry Brigade IRA, South Derry Command IRA, the Sands' family, the McCreeh family, the O'Hara family, Joe McDonnell and Brendan McLaughlin of the National 34 Black Armagh Committee, South Derry Committee, Sinn Féin, an Alliance for personal friend and comrade of Francis', now on the blanket, Dominic McGuinness (one of those who along with Francis, was mentioned by the RUC as having been wanted), Thomas and Bernard McIlwaine, two delinquent island men who are cousins of Francis', as well as



© The funeral of Francis Hughes, Ballygally, South Derry

scores of wreaths from other friends, comrades and sympathisers.

The last Post was played by tap dancers.

ORATION

South Derry republican John Davy chaired the graveside ceremony and introduced prominent republican Martin McGuinness from Derry who gave the oration. Martin McGuinness said:

"On behalf of the Republican Movement I would like to express our sadness and heartfelt sympathy to Francis' mother, father, sisters and brothers.

"Francis Hughes died on hunger strike in a British prison surrounded by the enemies of Irish Republicanism. He was sustained throughout the hunger strike by his republican ideals and his loyal and courageous family.

"It is impossible to imagine the intense suffering and hardship endured by Francis' family through fifty-nine days of hunger strike. As if this suffering was not enough we had the spectacle of the RUC hijacking the body and ignoring the family's wishes. Throughout this ordeal this good Irish family maintained their dignity. They truly followed the example of Patrick Pearse's family, of James Connolly's family and more recently Bobby Sands' family. They are indeed a credit to the Irish nation.

"The women of Ireland, in particular, can be proud of Mrs. Hughes and Mrs. Sands for the way they have borne their heavy burden. They have shown that the women of Ireland are the backbone of our struggle for freedom.

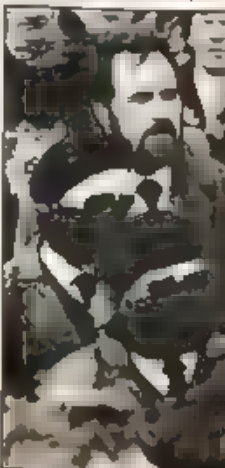
"To Mr and Mrs. Hughes I am proud to say that I know your son, I know him as an uncompromising man, Frank Hughes was a dedicated Irish republican totally committed to the freedom struggle, and to the people of this

country.

"He was a Derry man who lived deeply his area and the people of South Derry. He was a freedom fighter in the South Derry command of the IRA. He knew exactly what he was fighting for politically, more about the situation in this country concerned about the poor, the unemployed and all the social ills caused by the division of this country by the British government.

"He became a legend in his own lifetime, on the run from the British forces, his home became the hills and hedgerows of South Derry where with his comrades he constantly attacked the uniforms of the English crown. The British feared him so much that there were roads no British police could travel in safety.

"We are all aware of the circumstances of his arrest. He was uncompromising and uncompromised.

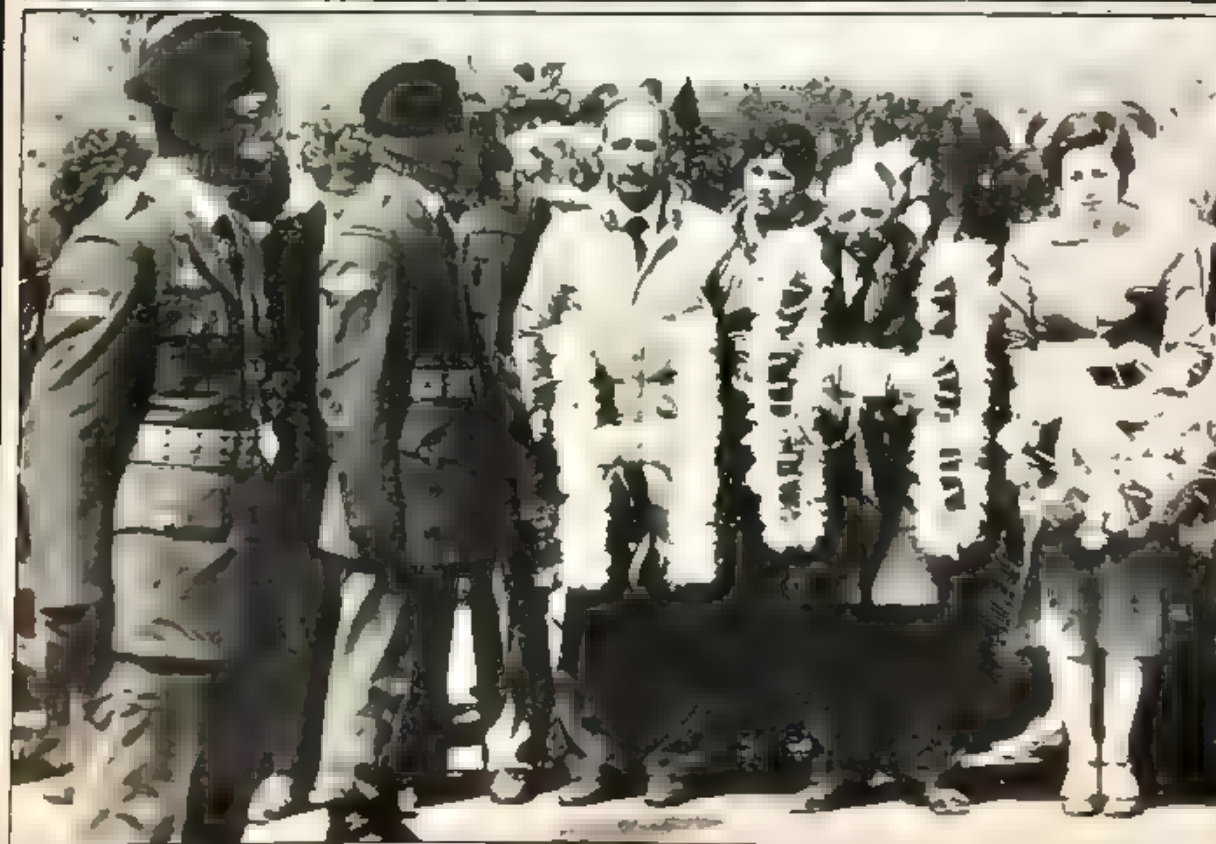


right through to the system to tell us of Long Kesh. He was a man who was a man to the death. He was a man who was a man to the death. He was a man who was a man to the death.

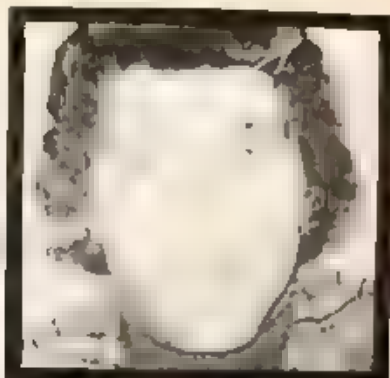
"We all know that he was a man who was a man to the death. He was a man who was a man to the death. He was a man who was a man to the death. He was a man who was a man to the death.

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THE FUNERAL OF FRANCIS HUGHES



H-BLOCK IMPRESSIONS



SHORTLY after eight o'clock on Tuesday evening I learned the tragic and shocking news of Francis Hughes' death on the prison grapevine, while in the custody of the gardai at Dundalk barracks. I was arrested at four that afternoon while travelling back to Belfast from there.

Although I had known earlier that day from speaking with Oliver Francis, brother of Francis, that he was in a bad way, the knowledge did not dawn on me then.

Living on the top in the cell, I started up at the evening and slowly descended the set and watching news. My mind quickly wandered back to April 1975 when lying in another cell, this time in Belfast's Crumlin Road Jail, I heard on the radio of the shooting dead by the British army of a dear comrade of mine, Brendan O'Callaghan. He was pinned down on the forecourt of the Hunting Lodge bar on the Stranmillis Road in Belfast.

A feeling of helplessness had gripped me then and the latter feeling returned while I lay gazing into space. And there, in several hundred cells, especially in the H-Block and Armagh, at that same feeling, which can only be realised at a time of tragedy by someone imprisoned by fear and a locked steel door would be ignoring the humanity.

Other brothers, and indeed some of our girls, expressed sadness at the news.

Had known Francis Hughes a year short period of time, approximately four months, or so, but I am not in any way qualified to write authoritatively about him, other than about how I found him in the H-Block of Long Kesh.

NEWS

On the first visit, accompanied by brother Oliver and sister-in-law John Derry from South Derry, who was a very close confidant of Francis, for Oliver and John I was their first visit with Francis since he had broken the news to his family that he would join Bobby Sands on the hunger strike.

Not looking forward to meeting Francis as I had heard many stories of his exploits against the British army and RUC in his native South Derry, I had also heard of his injuries, but was taken aback when I saw him hospitalised with the help of a crutch, along the ward he walked on his.

His body was virtually built as light as a feather when he walked. He greeted me with a strong handshake and the broadest smile I have ever seen on anyone's face. He placed the crutch against the wall and sat peacefully on the edge of his chair.

Words of desperation crept from his brow and he was a pale green sickly colour. His brother asked him was he well but Francis brushed these concerns off with a loud laugh and a shake of his long hair.

Before the visit ended he casually remarked that he had to talk back and rebel in the prison and frequently because of his prison time he was transported to the visiting area from his cell but since the prison administration became aware that he was to go on hunger strike they had finally punished him by making him walk the long distance. After the visit John Derry told me that on a previous visit he had to walk Francis off the chair and that he was in constant pain from his leg.

HUMOUR

My impressions of him from the first visit was that he was a man of few words and before speaking he weighed his words carefully and emitted what they meant something. He also had a high sense of humour.

My first impressions did not differ from that until I had seen him five visits later and better things were to be expected.

The second visit was when he was taken down on hunger strike. On that occasion I accompanied his father and John John Derry. On meeting his father, immediately we were Francis got the broad grin and the joyful glow of his face. His father is over seventy years of age and carries that grey and dignified appearance that only aged people acquire.

Francis' appearance was worse than Bobby Sands, whom I had seen the previous

day in the prison hospital and today was nearly rigid on his back but I knew from this that his leg injury would eventually be a total amputation.

Francis' attitude was one of quiet determination. He talked to his father about his family and to John Derry about republican business and on several occasions I had to grab him about his health. In his caring attitude he replied, 'It's sound, don't you worry about me. The following week he was moved to the prison hospital.

DEATH

The next four visits were similar to the previous ones. Francis spoke little about his condition and was more concerned about the other hunger strikers, especially Bobby Sands, who was gradually moving towards death.

On the last visit, which coincided with the visit from the people's army of Eoghan Francis was suffering great pain. He had partially lost his strength and was being violently held unable to hold down water. His mother and Oliver were also in the visit. Before seeing Francis we met Eoghan Francis and he told us that Eoghan Francis was totally devoted to bringing any consequences to the prison.

Francis' death, as Eoghan Francis had said to us, and in his last quiet moment he said 'I wish that I was a Thatcher and have nothing coming out of her because she is not giving it.

RUC HIJACK BODY



● RUC troops took charge of Francis Hughes' body as soon as it left the mortuary, while it waited for burial.



● Thousands of men were seen during the burial of Francis Hughes' body in West Belfast, before leaving of the RUC.

On Wednesday the body of republican hunger striker Francis Hughes was taken back by the RUC from the bereaved family, who were then subject to questioning harassment from the western force.

Francis' body had been transported from the H-Block, where he had died on Tuesday evening, to the Foster Green hospital in Belfast for a post-mortem. On Wednesday morning, in compliance with the family's wishes, the body was due to be taken through north-west Belfast on its way to the Hughes family home in Rathfriland, South Derry. But the RUC decided otherwise.

The full text of a statement from the Hughes family demanding that the RUC is published here.

● We don't need to discuss Francis' funeral at 7.30 p.m. When members of the family arrived they were told by the RUC that the body would be given to them as a courtesy and that they could return it to the family. It was provided to them that day and was placed back in the mortuary, where it remained in the family.

From 7.30 p.m. the RUC arrived and took the body to the mortuary. Our mother, who was very old, was told by the RUC that they were going to take the body to the mortuary and that they would be taking it to the mortuary. She was told that they would be taking it to the mortuary and that they would be taking it to the mortuary.

From then until 9.30 p.m. the RUC had the body in the mortuary. Our mother, who was very old, was told by the RUC that they were going to take the body to the mortuary and that they would be taking it to the mortuary. She was told that they would be taking it to the mortuary and that they would be taking it to the mortuary.

A large force of RUC troops took the body to the mortuary. The RUC then took the body to the mortuary and placed it in the mortuary. The RUC then took the body to the mortuary and placed it in the mortuary.

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hunger-strike....hunger-strike.... hunger-strike....hunger-strike

North

THE Journal of Francis Hodgson was
found on his coat of arms of the
House of Lords and which they
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4. Ինքնաշարժի մեքենաների և ավտոմեքենաների արտադրության և օգտագործման հարցերի մասին օրենք

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During the summer of the previous year, a boatload of immigrants had been brought to the island by the British Navy.

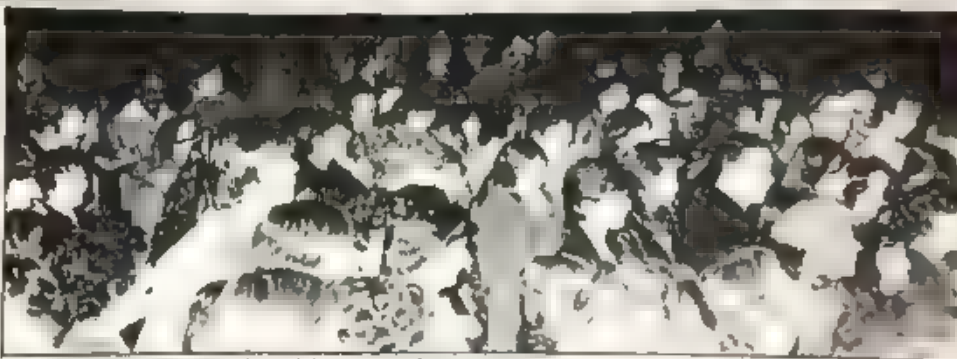
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After the murders Thursday week of hunger-striker Bobby Sands, the level of protest activity in support of the prisoners increased markedly in the North.

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4. Co-located Country Roads A set of five 1/2" x 1/2" rectangles - one each below the roadways - show the location of County Roads and these have been identified by numbers in the legend. On topography right of each road is an arrow pointing to the road and the road name and the road number are shown in the legend. The road numbers are shown in the legend.

It is a good thing that the American people are not so easily misled by the propaganda of the Soviet Union. The American people are not so easily misled by the propaganda of the Soviet Union.



● **Shooting today and 1-day pass**, at (The-weather Park) after hearing and 4-anna. **Shooting**, about



Re: Plaintiff's Motion for Summary Judgment and for Sanctions. July 2004



Tourism-related program, last 7 months

As proposed activity is 44-3886 was
re-initiated by the same person during the
examining that Francis Hughes had stated in
the previous memo dated 4-24-64 KPH.

As stated in the above letter the
interview and analysis conducted were carried
out and summarized report of this case
there and re-initiated the report and
will, again, be carried out and a summary
will be submitted to the 44-3886 file.

The FBI has been advised by the Attorney General's Office that it is not necessary to file a report under the provisions of the Act.

which has been a serious problem in the Gulf of Mexico waters containing a high level of oil pollution. The Gulf of Mexico is a major source of oil for the United States and the world. The Gulf of Mexico is a major source of oil for the United States and the world. The Gulf of Mexico is a major source of oil for the United States and the world.

[illegible]

the following is a sample from the 1989
quality inspection results

Fivefold confusion during the review
of "Wendy's" - thousands of people
looking for the Fast Food chain of this
name and the BLUE and yellow of the
signs of France thought and some referred
to others as to how through West
Street

In Kentucky, local people started to
be very "aware" - that is the reason for
many are to be proud of the quality of
France's products and in addition, they
have more than 100,000 McDonald's
and are continuing

hunger-strike....hunger-strike....hunger-strike....hunger-strike

Abroad

PROTESTS around the world continued to reverberate in the week following the death of Bobby Sands and surged once again with the news of the death of Francis Hughes last Tuesday.

In the United States, more than ten thousand demonstrators gathered in New York City in a protest outside the British consulate in New York on Saturday. The protest was held in support of the hunger strike and the demonstrators carried signs and banners.

In San Francisco, the Irish and anti-war groups, in addition to the anti-war group, demonstrated in front of the British consulate in San Francisco. The demonstrators carried signs and banners.

Meanwhile, the Communist Party of the United States has announced its support of the hunger strike and has announced that it will hold a demonstration in New York City on Sunday.

Further demonstrations, the New York City Municipal Democratic Labor Union has announced that it will hold a demonstration in New York City on Sunday. The demonstrators will carry signs and banners.

The aftermath of the death of Bobby Sands has been a source of inspiration for the Irish people. The Irish people have been inspired by the courage and sacrifice of Bobby Sands and they have decided to continue the hunger strike.

In London, the Irish people have been inspired by the courage and sacrifice of Bobby Sands and they have decided to continue the hunger strike. The Irish people have been inspired by the courage and sacrifice of Bobby Sands and they have decided to continue the hunger strike.

In Australia, the Irish people have been inspired by the courage and sacrifice of Bobby Sands and they have decided to continue the hunger strike. The Irish people have been inspired by the courage and sacrifice of Bobby Sands and they have decided to continue the hunger strike.

In France, a demonstration on Wednesday night, May 15th, protesting at the death of Bobby Sands was held in Paris. The demonstrators carried signs and banners.

The World Federation of Students Union in Berlin, which represents German students, has also a program in its charter concerning the support of the hunger strike. The World Federation of Students Union in Berlin, which represents German students, has also a program in its charter concerning the support of the hunger strike.

Following a meeting with Richard Butler of the Sinn Féin Foreign Affairs Bureau, the president of the Senate of the University of Toronto, has expressed sympathy to the British government at the death of Bobby Sands.

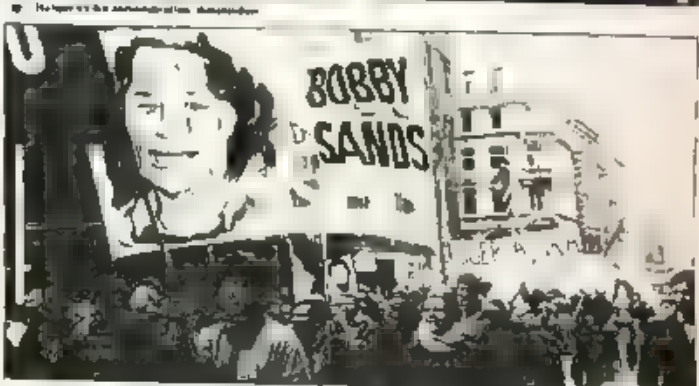
Demonstrations and protests in London have received much Irish media coverage. On Saturday, the May 11th, a major demonstration was held in London in support of the hunger strike.

On Wednesday, May 14th, a major demonstration was held in London in support of the hunger strike. The demonstrators carried signs and banners.

In London, the Irish people have been inspired by the courage and sacrifice of Bobby Sands and they have decided to continue the hunger strike. The Irish people have been inspired by the courage and sacrifice of Bobby Sands and they have decided to continue the hunger strike.



Thousands of demonstrators gathered in London to protest the death of Bobby Sands.



The name of the hunger strike demonstrator.



Protest outside British High Commission, Australia, New Zealand after the death of Bobby Sands.



Protest outside British Airways, Toronto.

Hurtful truths from Benn

by TERENCE MURPHY

IRONICALLY the only British political party which has been subject to any degree of internal disagreement as a result of the crisis created by premier Margaret Thatcher's arrogant intransigence to the ongoing H-Block hunger strike, is the British Labour Party, whose colonial representatives in Ireland, Martin Rafter, Roy Mason, and Don Concanon were the architects of that very situation.

Whatever policy differences may exist between the Labour and Conservative parties on other issues, this Irish policy approach with regard to "Irish" has remained intact since 1969 regardless of which party was in office.

The Labour Party has given the Conservative Party's Irish policy support and loyalty in the current crisis period much as they would have done if Britain had been engaged in a "fore-and-aft" according to journalist John Wilson of the "Sunday Times".

CHALLENGE

Since the death of Bobby Sands, however, the multiple, seemingly broad, loyalty of both "radical" and conservative English gentlemen with regard to their absolute righteousness in their dealings with Ireland has not gone unchallenged.

That challenge of course comes from within the ranks of the Labour Party and part of it at least found its roots in the resolution on the H-Block adopted by the Home Policy Committee at the initiative of leading left-winger Tony Benn last year which whilst not fully supporting the line demands was at least generally supportive. That resolution was, of course, drafted



MEMORIAL TO BOBBY SANDS IN KIL BARR, LONDON
The highly political spirit of the day was highlighted by the presence of a prominent Labour MP, who spoke at the ceremony at the Labour Party's headquarters in Kil Barr, London.

and republished by James Callaghan, who as the then Labour leader had the responsibility of party unity in maintaining the united front on Ireland. A position which Michael Foot has now taken up with fervour.

And the strike, whether their cause, have nominated Labour Party MPs broke ranks last week with a telegram going to Thatcher from twenty-eight back benches calling for a change of course. A position which was further articulated by Labour MP Pat Duffy at Westminster on Tuesday week. Duffy's Commons intervention, although

based on the also premise that the present situation was solely the fault of Conservative policy, was nevertheless welcome. As political commentators have repeatedly noted, Thatcher and company have merely been continuing an Irish policy particularly in relation to the prison, which was initiated by a Labour government.

CONDEMNED

Internal dissent within the Labour Party at least in the H-Block issue was again further demonstrated on Monday of this week with a motion put to the Home Policy Committee by Tony Saunders, a Young Socialist.

The motion, as last year's resolution on the H-Block situation, was generally supportive of the line demands in a direct manner, also condemning all forms of repression and torture and ultimately pointing to the need of Ireland as a laboratory for various techniques which could be used against the working class in Britain in the future. It naturally, included also an obligatory condemnation of terrorism.

It was supported by 101 to 100 by Tony Benn, Joan Marynold and Dennis Skinner and was defeated by a majority led by Michael Foot of nine votes to three.

PEAK

But the dissent reached its peak for this week at the 100, with Tony Benn's comments in an interview on Tuesday of this week which under the scope of that dissent from the specifics of the hunger strike and the H-Block to include the whole question of the British presence in Ireland.

"There is a new... said Benn, "and I hold it very strongly that partition in Ireland was a crime against the Irish people."



TONY BENN
with the death of Bobby Sands, Labour's shadow cabinet and Benn is almost certain to be elected as leader of the party.

and that the legitimate objective for the country is to bring about negotiations where the Irish people can solve the problem themselves. He went on "Partition took place without the consent of the majority of the people of Ireland in 1920. It was imposed on Ireland by a British government."

The immediate response by the Labour leadership, to the utterances of such dangerous truths, was typical. The possibility of Benn's expulsion has been strongly mentioned on the basis that Don Concanon is the only Labour party member involved in open publicity on Ireland; that Labour's Northern Ireland study group has the responsibility for drafting any recommended changes in policy and predictably that the truth about Ireland, however rarely it surfaces through British politicians, will expose the situation in Ireland.

REASONS

So what are the reasons behind these recent developments?

Firstly, despite a tendency on occasion to ignore it, there is the human element. Tony Don Concanon was visibly shaken by his first-hand view of what the present policies, which he first implemented, had led to, when he visited the four hunger-strikers shortly before Bobby Sands' death.

The emotions which shook Concanon were obviously absorbed by Labour MPs who were not as adequately ideologically brainwashed as Concanon and caused some form of sympathetic emotion. This compounded by the international condemnation which British politicians, to varying degrees, now find themselves subject to, has led some Labour MPs to demand at least movement towards a "revision".

But probably the most telling factor has been the traditional Irish support and membership of the Labour Party which is declining in many marginal constituencies at election time. A traditional support and membership of long standing is evident, particularly in the north of Ireland, by the names of many Labour MPs and leading Callaghan, Concanon, Duffy and so on.

And finally, of course, there is the factor of some indefinable degree of principle as it exists in Benn's clear and forthright pronouncements on the British-occupied situation of Ireland. Something which he may well put for judging by the current threat to have him expelled from the shadow cabinet, as an opportunistic exercise by Labour's right wing which has as much to do with Benn's enlisting for the Labour party regardless of a telling of hurtful truths.



Agreeing at a recent Belfast H-Block conference along with Geraldine McAtackay (right), Vincent Dobney (far left) and Gerry Adams (second from left) was Labour MP Martin Rafter. Rafter's agreement of such an unconditional condemnation on the H-Block issue has led some Labour MPs to demand at least movement towards a solution.

hunger-strike....hunger-strike....hunger-strike....hunger-strike



● Belfast black flag march



● On the streets of Dublin



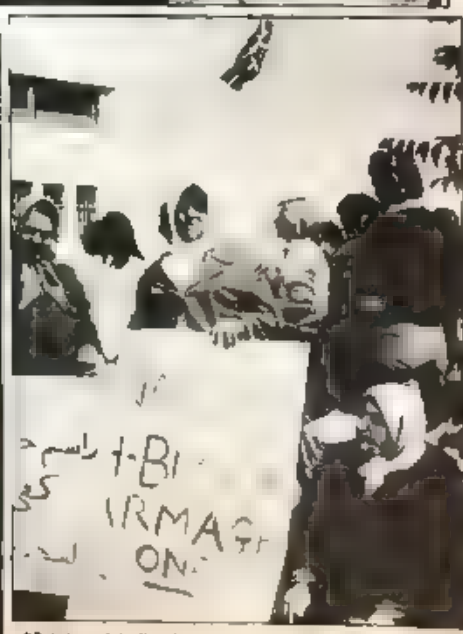
● C. H. van Alst with brother of hunger striker Raymond, address the Dublin GPO rally



● Mourning Bobby Sands in Belfast



● Busting the frenzy on Belfast's Falls Road



● Picketers of the British consulate in Jerusalem included relatives of Palestinian prisoners

National H-Block/ Armagh Committee OPEN CONFERENCE

BY SEANUS DOUGHERTY

AN EMERGENCY open conference on the hunger strike crisis was held in the Lake Glen hotel in Andersonstown, Belfast, last Sunday.

The conference, organised by the National H-Block/Armagh Committee in the wake of Bobby Sands' death, was attended by several hundred activists from local action groups nationwide (there was a good geographical spread) and from Sinn Féin, the Irish Independence Party, Peoples Democracy and the various republican networking groups whose membership unfortunately seems to increase in inverse proportion to their size.

The conference proved to be too hurriedly called and too lacking in preparation to form the hoped-for national focus for the mass political activity necessary to contribute to solving the issue of the smouldering hunger-strikers through winning their free demands.

Genuine insistence was expressed by speakers frustrated at the death of one hunger-striker, Bobby Sands, and fearful that the national committee's strategy of peaceful mass mobilisation and hard lobbying was, particularly at Funnis Fair and the SDLP, and among the trade unions in the South, would be incapable of saving the life of the next hunger-striker. Finian Hughes, and those following him, particularly Raymond McGeehan and Paddy O'Hare.

However, both speakers, and the sizeable numbers who sided with them (who were dismissed as a brutal riot threatening the existence of the conference) seemed unable to grasp that a strategy for success (at de-stabilising the UK and twenty six county states, and then forcing the British government to grant the prisoners demands) needs to encompass two sharply differing, but mutually reinforcing, aspects: one political, the other involving physical force.

On the one hand, there needs to be the ongoing vital work of the national committee strategy particularly in the South, but also in the North, of drawing the spreadable possible forces on to massive peaceful parades, of building to wards a workers' solidarity general strike and of committing the bulk of the rank and file of Funnis Fair and the SDLP to the free demands.

On the other hand, and generally restricted to the North, there urgently needs to be popular street riots, the erection of barricades against the British forces, and other violent acts of civil disobedience building towards the establishment of no-go areas in the nationalist ghettos, plus, of course, the armed actions of IRA Volunteers against military occupation forces.

MISTAKING

Certainly the latter aspect - rioting and shooting - which is obviously necessary - lays nowhere within the purposes or capabilities of the national committee. Many of those speaking, and especially those voting, for a different aim for the committee, adding (probably violent) mass, were mistaking the necessary role of the broad-based committee of organising progress, with the revolutionary role of the Republican Movement.

Even with respect to those peaceful mass mobilisation units without the broad of the national committee, some of the wider, particularly academic, varieties of the ultra-left were way off target, ridiculously suggesting that a Sunday evening call by the committee for a nationwide general strike of workers, North and South would achieve something positive in fact, of course making such a call (even when taking a socialist approach to building such activity) would only have brought scorn on the national committee.

CONFERENCE

The conference itself was only



► Participants at Bobby Sands' H-Block conference included (from left to right) Paddy O'Hare, Sinn Féin, Eoghan Gallagher, Gerry RAE, Vincent Doherty, P.O. Seanan Hughes, John Hughes, H-Block/Armagh Committee, P. Paddy O'Donnell, chairperson of the national committee, Paddy McGeehan and Don Blagg, both of the National H-Block/Armagh Committee, and (right) John Hughes, Sinn Féin, and (left) Gerry RAE, Sinn Féin.

chaired by Bernadette McAnulty, and began with an introduction by committee chairperson P. Paddy O'Donnell.

He stated that the collapse of the hunger strike in the North, and the death of Bobby Sands, was an international symbol of the struggle for Irish freedom. He also stated that many previously uncommitted people had now been moved to act by Bobby Sands' death. Such people, he said, should be welcomed into our ranks.

Tony Murray of Sinn Féin's P.O. Department, read statements from the printing process in the H-Block and Armagh (all warning the prisoners' welfare of Bobby Sands' death and calling for the free demands) and the death of Bobby Sands, and for the death of Bobby Sands, and for the death of Bobby Sands.

ADDRESS

An address, 'The Way Forward', by Gerry Adams of the national committee, was read on his behalf by another committee member as he was unavoidably detained elsewhere. Gerry Adams, in his address, laid out the main points of which follow here: all placed the present situation in its historical and political context, pointing out the central and decisive importance to the British of their constitutional policy.

"That," he said, "will help us to understand why the British government has refused to concede what we have seen as the political prisoners' reasonable and humane living conditions for any date of prisoner."

That it is not based merely by a fatal prison administration or by British English ministers who don't understand what they are doing is also becoming clear to increasing

numbers of people

"British imperialism is not the only reason for her refusal to end the H-Block/Armagh crisis. The British government had the capacity and sophistication in modern war to maintain such a situation on the other side. The H-Block/Armagh situation does not yet present that threat, though it has the potential to do so but until then the British government will persist with its confused and clearly defined strategy and, as part of that, its 'constitutional' policy."

"This is a constitutional policy, it is equally failing the republican struggle especially with the recent well-publicised murder of Valerian Bobby Sands MP and the continuing and escalating hunger strike in prison and what some say down upon Margaret Thatcher. That the present campaign outside the prison has not caused her without the death of a prisoner must be fully admitted by all. What we must now address ourselves to is the winning of these demands before a second, third, fourth, fifth or sixth death occurs in the prison hospital of Long Kesh."

FUNERAL

"Bobby Sands' funeral will be remembered by all for its size. Let there be no doubt that Bobby Sands clearly understood that should his death have been an ordinary because of British imperialism, then the circumstances of his death would have had a unifying effect upon the nationalist people. Bobby Sands was right and the manner funeral is proof of that. We in human and political terms, must therefore strive to match his sacrifice by following into the campaign those who have the resources to do so."

"On a personal level we must welcome, without unreservedly, neighbours and friends. We must channel their hearts' true support

into active mobilisation behind the prisoners' demands. The more people we have with us, the fewer we will have against us."

"On a political level our strategy must be based on the slogan 'unity is strength'. We must build a united nationalist front against the British government. Of course, we will have differences and should be prepared to use our political philosophy but the free demands of the prisoners form sufficient basis for unity among the nationalist groups of all the parties in this country."

The national committee recognised the vital importance of industrial involvement by workers in the campaign. Within the trade union and labour movement there is a widespread need for a resolution by H-Block activists of the fact that industrial support by workers for prisoners can only be organised from within the workers' organisations by the workers themselves or by those with whom they identify. Framework or ultra-leftist demands for workers' action do not and cannot replace actual work."

"Finally we turn to the question of peaceful demonstrations and rallies. While everyone accepts that such mass peace protests are needed, they must remain as important and central function of the committee. Spontaneous, uncoordinated action on a small scale forms no part of the strategy and is counter-productive. Mass, peaceful demonstrations need to be organised, given strength to strength. That is the task which the national committee must accomplish, regardless, but mindful, of restrictions at local level."

DISCUSSION

Following a full and open discussion with plenty of suggestions and suggestions for a general strike and other such initiatives in the imagination of 'revised ultra-left' ideas, Gerry Adams himself summed up.

He pointed out that demands and calls for action are not enough

The small work on the ground still needs doing. To call prematurely, and unspectacularly for a general strike, for example, would be seen by the masses of the campaign as a massive defeat for it.

The national committee strategy had not worked only because the work has not been done. Sinn Féin, work on the ground, Gerry Adams concluded, still needs doing amongst the trade unions, the GAA, among amongst the nationalist people. We should not be wasting our time merely strategising.

MOTIONS

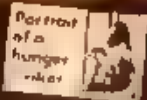
The conference's first session then closed, in mid-afternoon, and in the second session numerous motions, some some many (and/or) merely worded paper and speech, were each briefly discussed and voted upon.

Unfortunately nothing significantly new in terms of proposals, or fresh forces available, came out of the conference although the main address provided essential guidelines.

One motion passed, and a recurring theme, was that the conference was disappointed and angry at the ambivalent attitude of Free State premier Charles Haughey and SDLP leader John Hume (towards the British government's dogmatic stance). The conference called for Haughey to be set up within Funnis Fair and the SDLP by those party members who support the prisoners' free demands to be further support within each party.

With respect to the forthcoming local government elections in the North, a call was issued that nationalist councillors should adopt the prisoners' free demands as part of their platform, and that wherever local action groups, should campaign against them. A national demonstration was called for to the British embassy in Dublin. The general national committee policy of mass mobilisation on a broad basis was endorsed.

A determined and courageous Derrymman



Portrait of Paddy O'Hara

the Bogside in August 1969 that he based passionate feelings of nation alism and then republicanism, in them.

"Every day he has something different happening," says Paddy O'Hara, getting involved in riot and culture coming out. "This was his atmosphere."

JOINED

Elizabeth Paddy's younger sister, 44, is the coming of the British army in 1969.

"One day about after the British soldiers came into Derry, Paddy and I were walking through Bishop's Gate. I can look back at the soldiers and I wonder how Paddy and I got in the way."

He knew that the police were very strong and knew exactly what he was doing.

In 1976, Paddy joined the Irish Republican Army and joined in the Catholic Park.

Early in 1971 and through the war, young he joined the Patrick Pearse Sinn Féin column in the Bogside, selling Easter lilies and newspapers. In 1971, the O'Hara family particularly unhappy with the arrest of Sean Samaras in October.

"You never had a proper Christmas since then," says Elizabeth O'Hara. "Sean Samaras was interned and he was put up in a hospital and he was put up in a hospital and he was put up in a hospital."

Since then Sean's sister Paddy

continually harassed, often in for interrogation and arrest.

One day he and a friend were arrested on the Brandyman Road. Two soldiers approached in a high speed car. Paddy said described the arrest. "They were driving up the road and as they were turning up to the main street, there were some brown a parking with their engines and they were driving and were getting out of the car and were being stopped and put into the car."

Three months later he was arrested on his birthday. He was arrested for three days and then released with three days later he was arrested for three days.

Long Kesh had been burned a week previously. Paddy and his friend were arrested in an army camp and were put in the camp. They were arrested and were put in the camp. They were arrested and were put in the camp.

"The day after the arrest, we were in a hospital and we were in a hospital and we were in a hospital."

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IRSP

Shortly after his release in April 1976, Paddy joined the Irish Republican Socialist Party, which is the Irish Republican Socialist Party. He was arrested and was put in the camp. He was arrested and was put in the camp.

The Irish Republican Socialist Party is a political party that is active in the Republic of Ireland. It is a political party that is active in the Republic of Ireland.

He was arrested and was put in the camp. He was arrested and was put in the camp. He was arrested and was put in the camp.

BLOODY SUNDAY

On January 30th 1972 his father took him to watch the big and important match in it would be a day down from the Creggan.

My father was a bank clerk but was asked to get up into the Brandyman Road and that was the first time he was arrested. He was arrested and was put in the camp. He was arrested and was put in the camp.

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INTERINED

Since then Sean's sister Paddy



In 1976 Paddy had to see the end of the house for the first time. He was arrested and was put in the camp. He was arrested and was put in the camp.

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IMPRISONED

Paddy was arrested by the Free State and was put in the camp. He was arrested and was put in the camp. He was arrested and was put in the camp.

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evidence against him was the result of the British soldiers who said that they had been thrown at objects and some others.

In January 1980 he was sentenced to eight years in jail and went on the hunger strike.

HUNGER STRIKE

When was Mrs O'Hara's feelings when he told her he was going on hunger strike?

"My feelings at the start when he went on hunger strike, were that thought that they would get their demands, because it is not very much that they are asking for."

"There is no use in saying I was very worried and all the rest of it. There is no use in the sitting back in the night and letting someone else do it. Someone's hand have to go on it and I just happen to be the mother of that son."

What has the last eight weeks been like?

"It has been terrible," said Mrs O'Hara.

"Nobody knows if with a hunger strike, but you always have hope in fact always had more than hope because never thought that they would let Bobby Samaras and Francis Hughes go."

I say to her, where another is concerned, she must have hope. I say to her, where another is concerned, she must have hope. I say to her, where another is concerned, she must have hope.

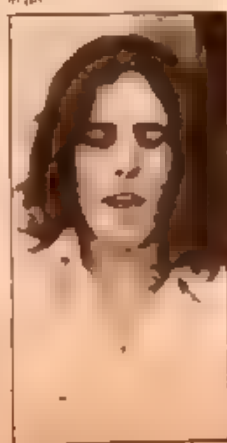
He is very determined. He is very determined. He is very determined. He is very determined.

PRINCIPLES

In the face of an intransigent British government, and with growing national and international support, it is clear that Paddy O'Hara is determined to defend his principles.

Writing shortly before the present hunger strike began, Paddy O'Hara firmly declared:

"We stand for the freedom of the Irish nation so that future generations will enjoy the prosperity they rightly deserve. We stand for the rights of the Irish people to a fair and just society. We stand for the rights of the Irish people to a fair and just society."



Elizabeth O'Hara
Paddy's wife, Elizabeth, says she is the most determined of all.

A quiet, good-natured and discreet republican



Vol. Peter Cleary



Vol. Jim Loughlin



Vol. Sean Campbell

Continued from previous page

almost invariably working in his own, extremely tight, active service unit, though occasionally when requested - as he frequently was - assisting other units in neighbouring areas with specific operations. He would always carefully consider the pros and cons of any operation, and would never permit to lose his nerve.

In undertaking the hunger strike, Raymond gave the matter the same careful consideration he would have expended on a military operation; he understood nothing either in a rush, or for bluff.

The one occasion when Raymond allowed his feelings to get the better of him occurred at a very emotional time for republicans in the South Armagh border area.

On December 18th 1976, Vol. Captain Jim Loughlin, O/L of South Armagh's 1st Battalion, and Staff Captain Sean Campbell were blown up by defusing a landmine they had planted for British forces at Killymore, County Louth. Jim Loughlin, at his native Omburine in South Armagh.

At Jim Loughlin's funeral, Staff Captain Peter Cleary called out: 'Volunteers, line up in two's! Defiant in their grief, unmarked Volunteers - including Raymond, to the surprise of local people, who hadn't guessed of his involvement - stepped forward as Irish nationalists draped overhead.

From that time on, it is possible that the Brits were aware of Raymond's involvement, but so careful was he, ordinarily, that not until his capture did they have evidence of real involvement sufficient to charge him.

A little over four months later, Peter Cleary was abducted by SAS gunmen, on April 15th 1976, from a house fifty yards north of the border, which he had crossed to meet his father who was living in the house. He was strapped away, beaten unconscious and shot dead.

CAPTURE

The operation which led to the capture of Raymond, his boyfriend friend Danny McGuinness, and Patrick Quinn, took place on June 25th 1976.

An active service unit comprising

ing these three and a fourth Volunteer arrived in a commandeered car at a farmyard in the townland of Shangan - a mile from Carrlough - at about 8.25 p.m.

Their objective was to ambush a British observation post which they had located opposite the Mountain House Inn, on the main Newry-Newtonhamilton Road, half a mile away. They were not aware, however, that another British observation post on a steep hillside half a mile away had already spotted the four masked, uniformed and armed Volunteers, clearly visible below them, and that reduced helicopter reinforcements were already closing in.

As the fourth Volunteer drove the commandeered car down the road to the agreed ambush point, to act as a lure for the Brits, the other three moved down along the hedge-line of the field, into position. The fourth Volunteer, however, as he remained, it emerged, to remain his comrades, spotted British paratroopers on the hedge crouching in on his unsuspecting friends and, although, only armed with a short-range Sten gun, opened fire to warn the others.

Immediately, the Brits opened fire with SLRs and light machine guns, churning up the ground around the Volunteers with hundreds of rounds, firing indiscriminately into the nearby farmhouse and two vehicles parked outside, and killing a grazing cow!

The fourth Volunteer was struck by three bullets, in the leg, arm and chest, but managed to crawl away and to slide the massive follow-up search, moving safely - though narrowly - in the next day.

Raymond and Patrick Quinn ran zigzag across open fields in a nearby house, under fire all the time, intending to commandeer a car. Unfortunately, the car belonged

ing to the occupants of the house was asked at a neighbour's house several hundred yards away. Even then the car might have escaped but that they delayed several minutes waiting for their comrades, Danny McGuinness, who himself had got separated from them and had been cornered in a nearby quarry outburst (where he was captured in a follow-up the next day).

The house in which Raymond and Patrick Quinn took cover was immediately besieged by British Paratroopers who added the house with tactics. Even when the two Volunteers surrendered, after the arrival of a local priest, and came out through the front door with their hands up, the Brits opened fire again and the pair were forced to retreat back into the house.

On the arrival of the RUC, the two Volunteers again surrendered and were taken to Berbrook barracks where they were questioned and kept for three days before being charged.

REMARKABLE

One remarkable aspect of the British ambush concerns the role of British Corporal David Jones, a member of the 3rd Battalion of the Parachute Regiment. According to Brit statements at the trial it was he who first opened up on the IRA active service unit from the hillside.

Nine months later, on March 18th 1977, two IRA Volunteers incarcerated two Paratroopers in the time according to the SAS in a field outside Maghera in South Down. In the ensuing gun battle, one SAS man was shot dead, and one IRA Volunteer was captured. The Volunteer's name was Francis Hughes, the dead Brit was Lance Corporal David Jones of the Parachute Regiment.

In the eighteen months before going on hunger-strike together, Raymond McGuinness and Francis Hughes shared the same H-Block cell, but were apparently not aware

of what would seem to have been an ironic but supremely fitting example of republican solidarity!

After nine months on remand in Cumnin Road jail, during which time he would have met fellow hunger-striker Bobby Sands, Raymond was tried and convicted, in March 1977, of attempting to kill Brits, possession of a Grand and ammunition, and IRA membership. He received a fourteen-year sentence, and four concurrent sentences, after refusing to accept the court.

In the H-Block he immediately joined the blanket protest, and so determined was his resistance to criminalisation that he refused to take his monthly visits for four years, right up until he informed his family of his decision to go on hunger-strike on February 15th this year. He also refused to send out monthly letters, writing only

smuggled 'communications' to his family and friends.

The only member of his family to see him at all during those four years in Long Kesh - two or three times - was his brother, Fr. Brian McGuinness, who occasionally says mass in the H-Block.

Like the rest of the McGuinness family, Fr. Brian solidly supports Raymond in his hunger-strike. He explains that an Irish ecclesiastical conference after the death of Terence McDermott on hunger-strike determined that a hunger-strike was morally justified if undertaken for 'a just and proportionate end', and he points out that the hunger-striker's aim is to achieve justice by fasting they do not aim to take their lives, that respectability lies with the Brits.

HUNGER-STRIKE

Like Francis Hughes, Raymond volunteered for the earlier hunger-strike, and, when he was not chosen among the first seven, took part in the four-day hunger-strike by thirty republicans until the hunger-strike ended on December 15th last year. (His family joke that even the six toughs who abandoned their hunger-strike after five days lasted longer than Raymond!)

Speaking to his brother Malachy, shortly after Bobby Sands' death, Raymond said what a great loss had been felt by the other hunger-striker, but it had made them more determined than before.

And, still managing to keep his spirits up, when told of his brother, Fr. Brian, campaigning for him on rally platforms, Raymond joked: 'He'd probably get as commiserated for it!'

Now, however, this determined and resolute republican hunger-striker faces death within a few, pen-washed, tortured, days unless British premier Thatcher can be persuaded from her intransigence, and Fine Gael premier Haughey from his cold, opportunistic indifference. Already they have allowed two men to die.

Only the determined protest of the Irish people, and growing international pressure, can prevent the imminent death of Raymond McGuinness.

Otherwise, that ominous half-prediction made by him a few weeks ago may become a grim reality: 'I'd want any go to initials and initials and initials, a chap.



■ THE SCENE OF RAYMOND'S CAPTURE, in the townland of Shangan, near Carrlough, June 25th 1976: 1) the steep hillside where the Paratroopers hit the IRA Volunteers, and opened fire; 2) the farm buildings where the Volunteers moved off from and which were called by the Paratroopers 'The'; 3) the point where the Volunteers first came under fire; 4) the house where the Volunteers hoped to commandeer a car, and where they were besieged; and 5) the main Newry-Newtonhamilton road leading to the Mountain House Inn (just to the right of the road) where the ambush was planned.

■ KEY: The farmhouse where the active service unit was based off June 25th 1976; the house near Carrlough was the one first visited by the Paratroopers.

FRANCIS HUGHES

IRA SOLDIER



The final salute, at Bellaghy, South Derry, on Friday, for Francis